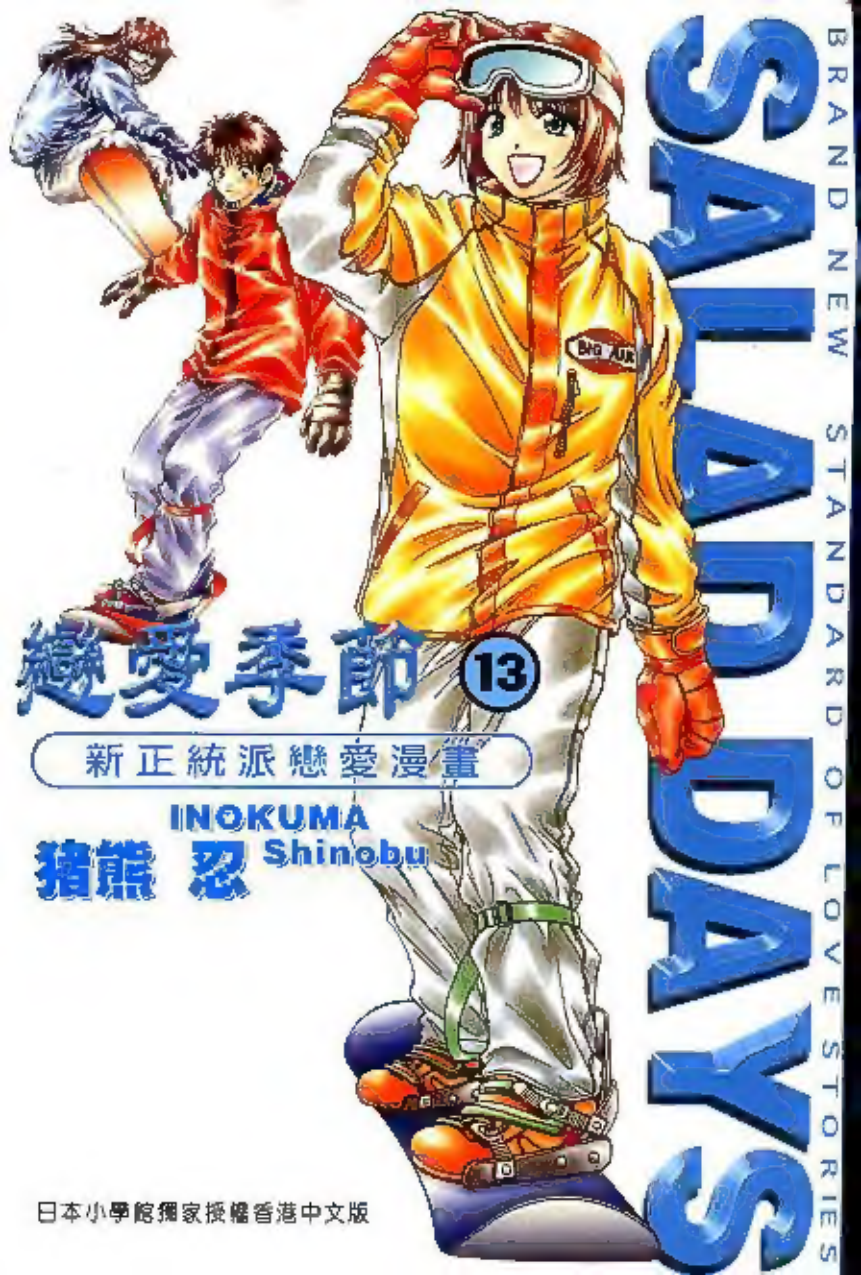
SALAD DAYS
BRAND NEW STANDARD OF LOVE STORIES
戀愛季節 13
新正統派戀愛漫畫
INOKUMA
猪熊 忍 Shinobu
日本小學館獨家授權香港中文版

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SALAD DAYS

戀愛季節 13

新正統派戀愛漫畫

INOKUMA
猪熊 忍 Shinobu

Everyone has experienced it, a time bitter-sweet experiences in the stage of love. These are our "SALAD DAYS". When a penmanship clod recieves a love letter, she's deathly afraid of writing a reply. With Ikumi's painful and yet somewhat sweet romance, I welcome you to the 13th volume love stories.

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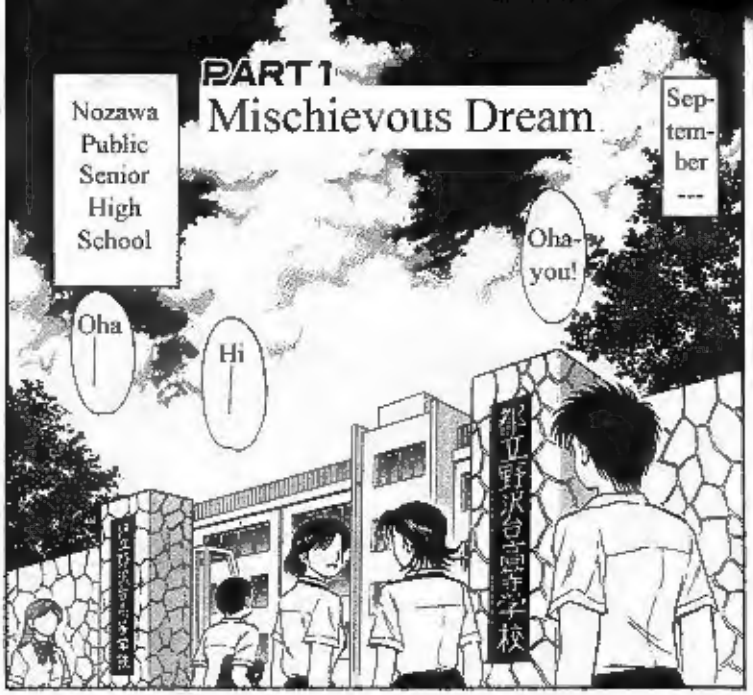

Besides, it's nice to see everyone happy from a fun vacation
Huh?
Hehe, that's 'cuz I went to the beach a lot over the break
Uwah! Shibasaki, how did you get so tan?
But, new semesters have stuff to look forward to
But today we have to think about going back to class...

SALAD DAYS 13

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■ 猪熊忍 ■
Inokuma Shinobu

Huh? Oh yeah, Kawa-nabe-kun, you didn't come with Ritsuko -chan today?
Didn't sleep well last night... had a bad dream
What are you doing so down when the 2nd semester just started...?
No, I didn't ...
...I'll be very fearful of seeing her...
I have a bad feeling that today .....
Ah---! Kawa-nabe -kun...!
What's up?
What? Fearful?

Mor-nin' ---
PART 1
Mischievous Dream
Kawa-nabe?
Ka... Kawa-nabe -kun?
Wa-aah!

It's just like that dream last night. Same length, same cut...
Why ...?
Why did Ritsuko change hairstyles all of a sudden?
ha
ha
ha

Does it mean it's inevitable then?

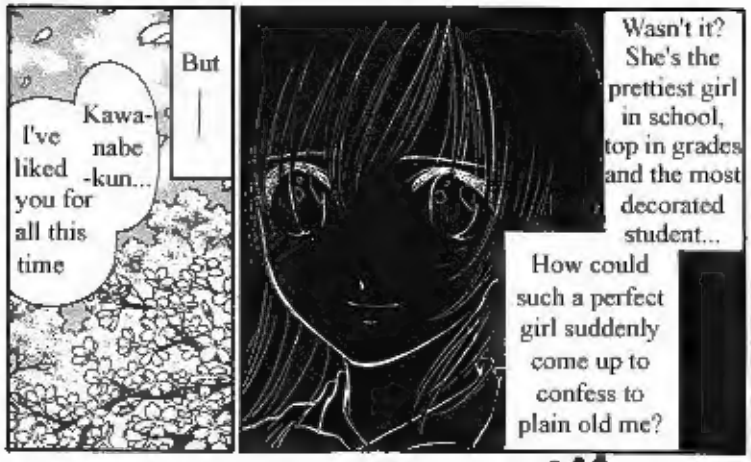
I don't know when, but I began having dreams that can possibly be realized...
Today, I'll get dumped by her...
Looks like last night's dream... will realize
Does she want to get rid of me?

Why didn't you wait for me at the usual place?!
Why are you over here?

Uwaaah aaaaah!
What's wrong with this guy?
Na-ni yo?

Ri... Ritsu-ko!
Uwah --- Ritsuko -chan

Ah... aah... aaah ...
Whoa--- You look more radiant than usual
Un, a change of pace
You cut your hair
How cute---


I've liked you for all this time
Kawa-nabe -kun...
But
Wasn't it? She's the prettiest girl in school, top in grades and the most decorated student...
How could such a perfect girl suddenly come up to confess to plain old me?

Suddenly, I spotted something and raised my head...

I'm slowly walking alone on a sakura-pink flurried road
The first one was in spring of this year...

A person's silhouette entered my field of view

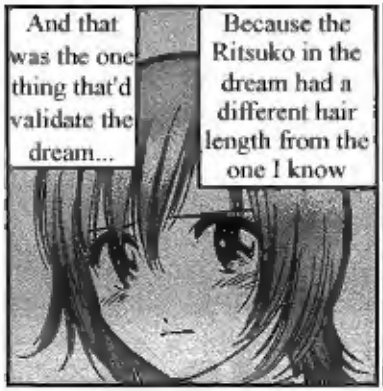
The impossible has happened!
Huh ...?
Will you go out with me?

Huh ...?
I've liked you for all this time

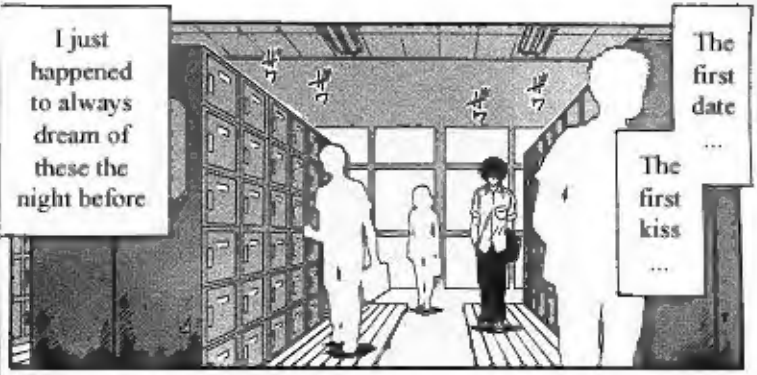
It was Nosaka Ritsuko
Kawa-nabe -kun...

Will you go out with me?
Afterwards, I chided myself for having such a laughable dream
I woke up after dreaming 'til there

Following that... After this event I just continuously kept having these kind of dreams
Of course, I had no reason to object
In fact, I've liked her for a very long time, too
What Nosaka Ritsuko said was exactly like the dream...
The sakura-pink flurry ...


And that was the one thing that'd validate the dream...
Because the Ritsuko in the dream had a different hair length from the one I know

I thought it wouldn't realize this time at least...
When I woke up, my mind was a blank


I just happened to always dream of these the night before
The first date ...
The first kiss ...

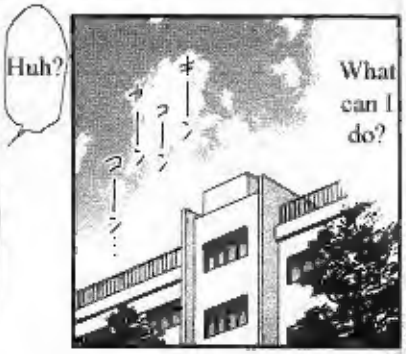
I wished that was the case, that's why I rationalized it this way
I just rationalized it as some fortune that helps our relationship go more smoothly
I don't know either why I have dreams about you...

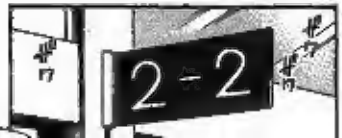
But
I really don't want to break up

A night-mare

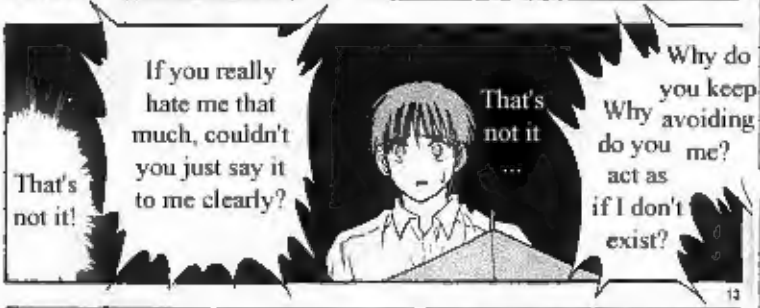
What?
Let's break up.....
But to think I had last night's dream...

Gone home already?


Huh?
What can I do?
キーン コーン カーン コーン...


2-2

If that's the case, I'll keep running... I'll keep on running!
Yosh—!
What's up with Kawanabe-kun? This morning too...
Mou--- I specifically asked him to wait until I was done taking out the trash
I don't think I'm mistaken
No way—?
sigh... went and left without her.....
.....
Un, ran away as if his life depended on it
I have to sacrifice...
For the sake of the long run...
But...
Ah, Kawanabe...
Not being with Ritsuko pains me...
That's all I could think of to keep the dream from becoming reality...
But...
Ritsuko's gotta be real pissed by this, huh?
...it's been a week already
.....
!!
Just as long as I keep escaping..... maybe this dream has a time limit and it will go away...
That's right--- if I just don't see her, then she wouldn't get the chance to break up with me!
All I could do is escape...


That's not it!
If you really hate me that much, couldn't you just say it to me clearly?
That's not it ...
Why do you act as if I don't exist?
Why do you keep avoiding me?

13

That's not... it.....

12

"Sorry" for what...?
What's this response mean?
I'm sorry, Ritsuko...
15
You dolt ...
Dreams ...aren't real at all, are they?
I love you very much... I'm sorry...
I'm sorry I made you cry
It's merely an "illusion", something that *seems* like "reality"
Dreams... in the end are just dreams
14

I just didn't want to get myself hurt---...
I see now ...
Actually, the answer to that is so obvious!
... which one should I really believe ...?
A dream and reality...
18

Your new hair-style
This suits you very well
Ba-ka
A little too late
And face "reality" which is most important
But rather ground oneself ...
One should-n't walk the path created by dreams
Na-ni?
Hey Ritsu-ko
is all up to me in the end after all
or an "impos-sible dream"
What makes a "possible dream"
I could always be here to hear your praises
I wish

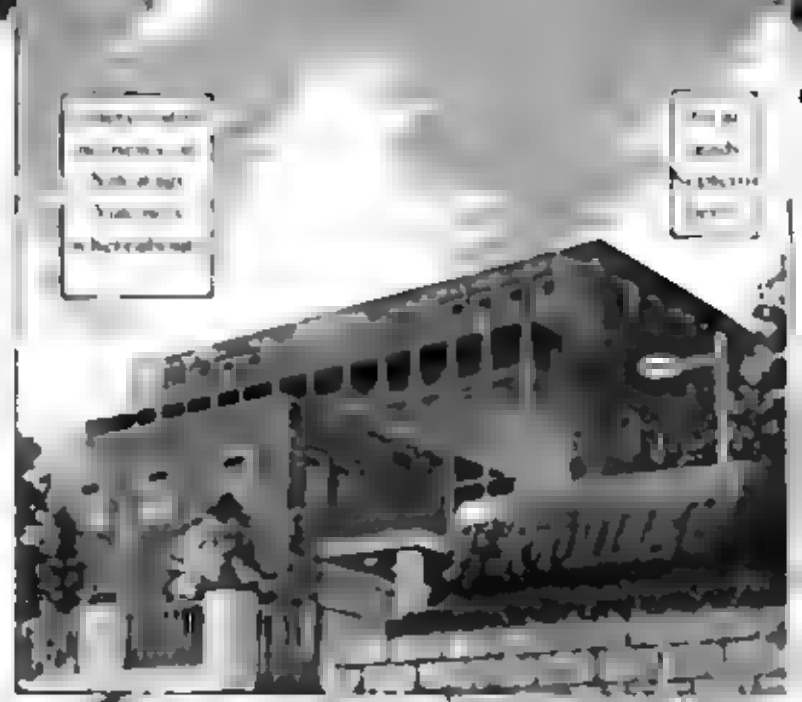
"Sakuragi Yukino, gone missing" ---
Counting down to the last days of summer vacation on a blazing hot morning
This took up almost the whole front page of a paper's entertainment section
桜木雪乃
失踪
Gone Missing
sudden disappearance

PART2

Everlasting Love Song

She was a hot star that always topped the Oricon singles charts. News of her going missing stirred up a lot of people in Japan

YUKINO SAKURAGI



COO-ナ

Huh..?
ガチャ
DISC
PHONE
But her voice is so crisp It sounds really great when she sings
I never thought she'd be that kind of girl
And--- blew up during a video recording, and even once on a live show
I heard she once hit the famous producer T J
But---she's been missing for 2 weeks now what's going on?
She's doing fine right?
The love songs she sings are unrivaled
In the end Sakurago Yukino's songs are the best
試聴コーナー
*Listening Corner
じゃーん
What the
Snow
Haah, what am I worrying about? I can't do a thing

What the?
What's going on here?
W...
Please wait a minute
What does she think she is doing?
Saku-ragi Yukino---?
I-.. Isn't this -
Creator's quality control
some-thing you made
After all This is
Why'd you go and do that?
Why d you go and do that?
What do you mean, "What"?
What?
Eh?
What is she doing here?
How can this, be?

But to start with she didn't sing love songs exclusively
Is she going for a change of image
It's a shame but
I won't be creating or performing any more love songs
" What's that mean
Just what the heck does that mean?
Am I any good
It's just like as reputed She's really rash
Are you a fan of mine
Huh? Yeah
Actually I can say they're the best
Of course! Your love songs are so good
What kind of twisted reasoning is that
I have to personally destroy unsatisfactory products with my creations
About how Sakurago Yukino's whereabouts are still unclear
The next day and the day after that Every major newspaper kept reporting articles regarding her "going missing"
Huh
Then--- I advise you, it's better you stop being my fan starting today
Is that so?
keeps staying in this city
As long as she ...
That's not surprising
I won't be creating or performing any more love songs

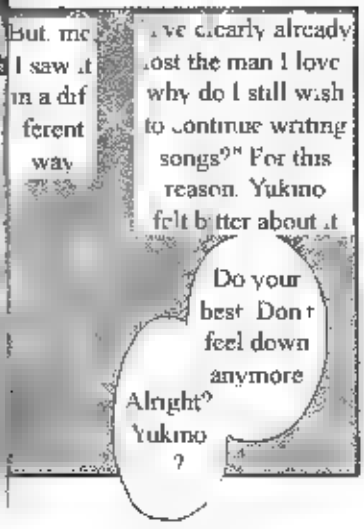
Huh?
Because it's painful
Before I knew it, we started having endless talks with each other, like friends that have known each other for a long time
At first, Yukino gives off a scary impression to people, but after getting to know her, I found out to my surprise that she was a very affable girl
Usually by the window staring at something afar
I don't know why but she often hangs around the library
Hm?
Hey Yukino, can I ask you a question?
Also before I knew it, I started to wish that I could be with her forever
I'm afraid that if I kept prying, I might lose her from my sight
And I— didn't dare press any further
After she said that, Yukino went into a state of depression
Yukino
Ah
A few days later
No particular reason
Why is that?
You said before that "I won't be singing any more love songs"
Huh?

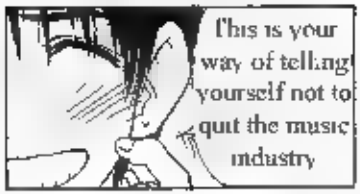
Perpetually longing
I longing from afar for something that can't be restored.
Unable to stop thinking about a failed romance
Huh?
It's just I dislike myself more and more now
It's nothing. I'm fine
What is the matter?
Ah -
Yukino

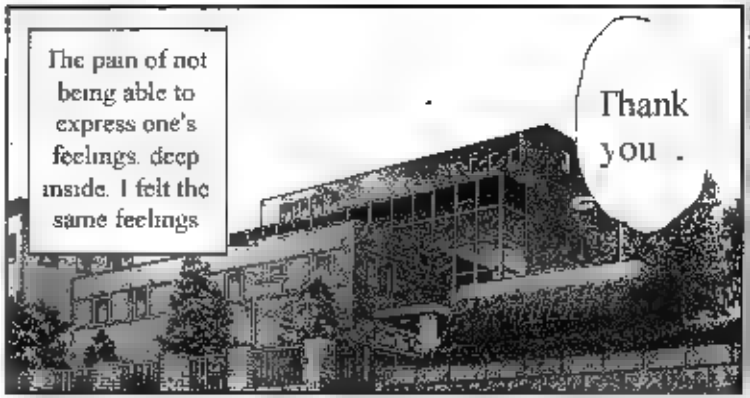
What exactly am I to you? A boyfriend? Or an object of inspiration just for writing songs?
But-- Slowly Writing songs became my job. When I turned pro, he became even more unhappy
His presence was the reason I could write love songs
That guy is my ex-boyfriend Beside him is the new girl he's just started seeing
Eh?
All the love songs I created--- They were all love letters for him
Afterwards, I just gave up on writing and singing songs
In the end we broke up for this same reason It's so laughable
It's crazy, huh? Fighting because of songs I wrote for him
But, if I said I give up
then why
I don't know
Who else ?
And they're all love songs at that These songs. Who can I still give them to?
Why have I been endlessly thinking up of new verses since awhile ago?
At first, he really was sincerely happy about that
For him I continuously created one after another
Three years ago, from the time we started dating

Just as long as you still have a heart, you can still continue creating love songs, you know?
I n

Huh?
Of course you give them to yourself, Yukino


But, me
I saw it
in a dif
ferent
way
ve clearly already
ost the man I love
why do I still wish
to continue writing
songs?" For this
reason, Yukino
felt bitter about it
Do your best. Don't feel down anymore. Alright? Yukino ?


This is your way of telling yourself not to quit the music industry


The pain of not being able to express one's feelings, deep inside, I felt the same feelings
Thank you .

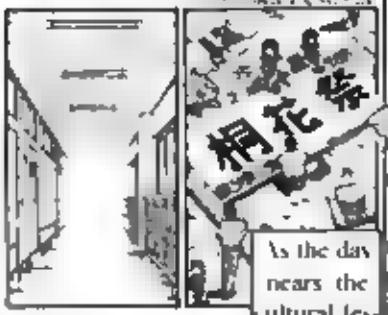
Three months later ---
Yo--- Akio, have you heard Sakuragi Yukino's new single?
No, not yet
I bought it already it's really good Go get it
Hee
This one is able to give people a feeling of energy
It's completely different from those sad love songs before
Looks like
you've picked up your spirits and persevered Yukino
That day, I got a letter from Yukino Inside was attached a copy of her new single---
Huh? What did you just say Akio ?
It's nothing
The letter had only a single sentence written on it "I won't ever destroy *this* CD !!"

PART 3
A Bit Too Close... (1/2)

*12 days left to the cultural festival!
Everyone do your very best
-Cultural festival planning committee

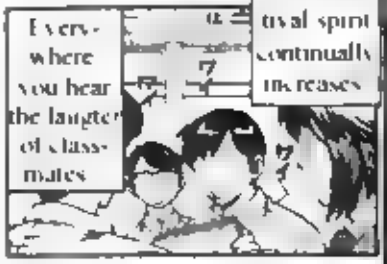
Fall of 2000 ---

It's now come to the time to prepare for the last cultural festival of the century



As the day nears the cultural festival spirit continually increases

Everywhere you hear the laughter of classmates



But

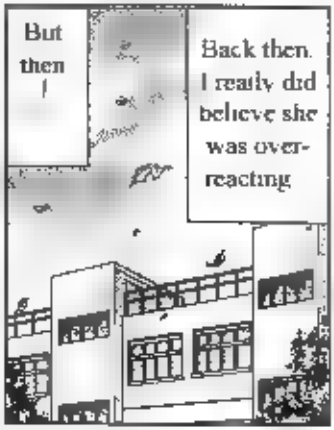
*Men's washroom

We the class of 2nd year section 7 have decided on presenting a "Makeshift Teahouse"!

And the results of the vote are---

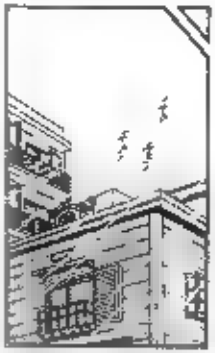
A fight
Actually, I'd be glad to have a fight with her--
Had a fight, ?
'Cuz every time you're down it's because of Kawamura -san
Kami-yama Yuuki, age 17 September-ber
The ner-vousness I felt from the start up until now still hasn't subsided
These days, I rarely get to talk to Futaba any-more
Ah?
We have to go back to a week ago
You need an opponent for it to be a fight, don't you?
And this doesn't count as a fight?
Anyway, I'm eager to see the cultural festival
No-thing
What's wrong? Why are you sigh-ing. ?
Why'd you bring this up all of a sudden ?
Where are you looking at
What
Oh, Yuuki! What's up with you and Kawa-mura Futaba?

Ah, sorry about that But I have to attend a committee meeting
Oh— Futaba, let's go home


But then I
Back then, I really did believe she was over-reacting

It was appointed to me today by sensei
I n

You, Futaba?
Cultural festival planning rep?

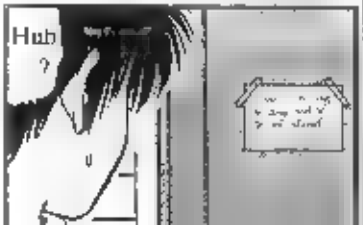


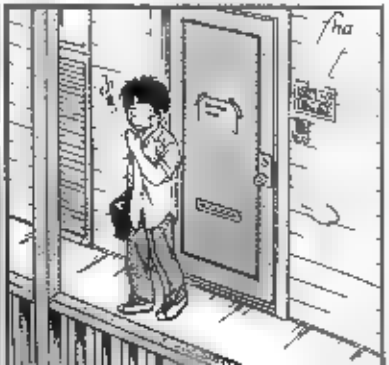
Wha?

Looks like I'm going home really late
I'm afraid you have to manage your own dinner this time

Why would you wanna go do such a thankless job?
Just thought I'd be productive
I feel that this suits me just fine I planned to help out to begin with

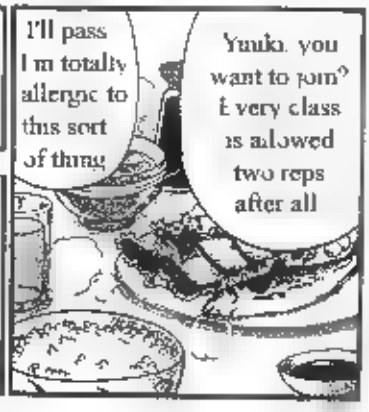
Hm?


Huh?


Tha

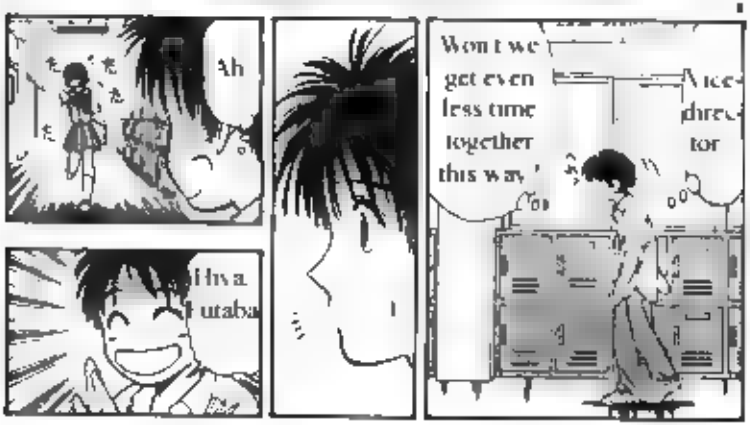
Is that so

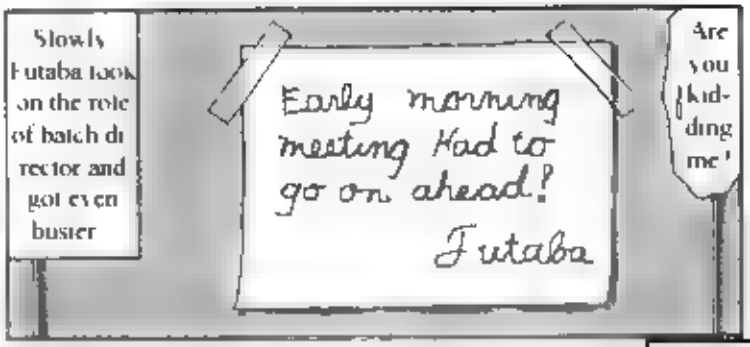
Aren't you over-reacting? You're just going to be a planning rep
Well, we won't be seeing each other much for a short while then

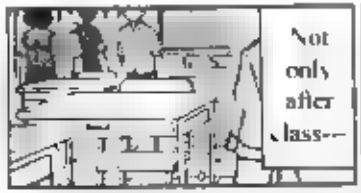

I'll pass I'm totally allergic to this sort of thing
Yuuko, you want to join? Every class is allowed two reps after all

Ne have you heard? It seems like Kawamura has been elected as vice-director of the cutural festival planning committee
Really? That s so amazing
What s more shocking is I heard that she was passionately supported by the director Tazawa sempai
What? Tazawa -sempai is the director?

But being able to work with Tazawa -sempai I m so envious!
But wouldn t it be tiring She s taking on the class s responsibilities and the whole school s


Ah
Hiya Futaba
Won t we get even less time together this way?
Vice-director


Slowly Futaba took on the role of batch director and got even busier
Early morning meeting Had to go on ahead!
Futaba
Are you kidding me?


Not only after class--

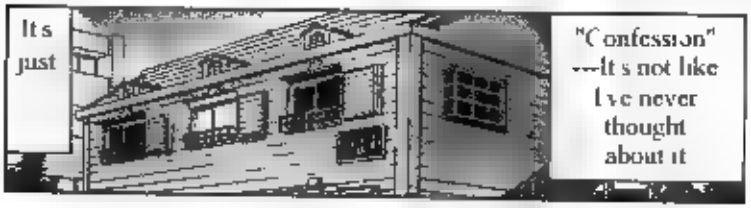
Committee matters. It seems
Huh? Where d Futaba go?
Science Room
It s no longer just before and after school We don t see each other even at lunch---

Even on days off I didn t get a chance to see her
Sunday

And then it came to today ------

even though I don't know what's wrong.
Geez, perk up a little bit!
I'm treating you to a drink
Take this
Fumika ...
Huh?
Drat--- Busy! Busy!
Was that Yuuki just now?
Hm?
Hi
Fumika
What's up? Why are you all huddled up here?
Wrong, it's unfortunate but
Do you need to ask? Isn't it a boy friend?
Huh?
What does my existence actually mean to Futaba?
I'm not even her closest male companion anymore. She's rarely paid any heed to me lately too
But ...

If you keep stalling, she really might get stolen by another person
Don't you know how hard that is to say?
Actually, it's pretty easy
"I love you" works just fine
Geez, you--- How do I put it to words?
When did you become a shop?
Okyakusan, you may not find such a good item next time


It's just
"Confession" ---It's not like I've never thought about it

Huh
If it goes well, it's all good, but what if I'm rejected? What'll I do afterward?
That time we were a bit too close, my courage simply fled from me
It's 9pm now
Don't tell me she's not home yet?
That girl
Things might go awry right?

If you look at it that way, we indeed look like lovers
If I didn't think, "Your existence is special to her" I'll just act awkward
We go to and from school together, even have dinner together
Am I wrong in thinking this?

But then……

If you like her that much, you should confess it to her
I don't get you ---
What if Futaba thinks of me as only "the classmate who lives next door"?
It's kind of a burden too, isn't it?

was going for some groceries
I well
Yuuki what are you doing here?
Oh yeah
Ah?
I hear you live by yourself as well Yoroshiku
I hear Futaba speak of you a lot
Oooh so you're the infamous Yuuki
Hello
He's the planning director Tazawa sempai
5
Thank you sempai
Well this is goodbye then
Sempai walked me home cuz we stayed late
He calls her "Futaba"?
Huh?
And it's this late already the school should've closed by now Where the heck did she go?
No matter how busy it can't last this late
Ah?
What?
14

Naw
Sorry for the bother yesterday

Oh
Ah

Huh?
This is perfect. can you help me move this for a bit?

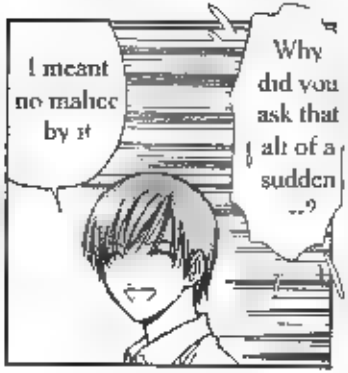
What?

like Futaba a lot. am I right?

Can I ask ---? You
Why'd he pick me for this?

h?

Because, I like her too


I meant no malice by it
Why did you ask that all of a sudden --?

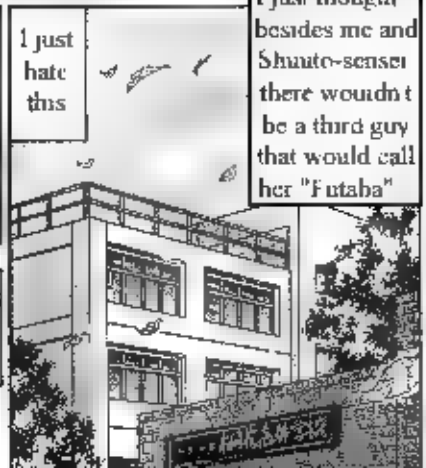
Ah, Yuuki, weren't you going to the supermarket?

I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
What the heck you weren't listening to me

Yeah
Seems like a long time since we've walked together

I hear Futaba speak of you a lot.

What exactly is this feeling?


I just hate this
I just thought besides me and Shuuto-sensei there wouldn't be a third guy that would call her "Futaba"

..like to compete with you, okay?
Yuuki, I'd---
!?
What ?

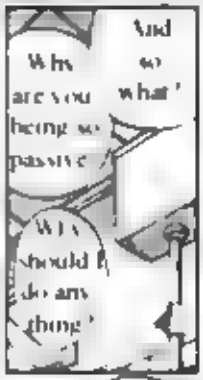
PART4
A Bit Too Close... (2/2)

Huh?
Really?
Kawamura-san... I think I saw her go into the gym
I've been looking for her since awhile ago and haven't seen her
She's not here
Huh?
Yeah. I saw her go in with the cultural festival planning director, Tazawa-sempai
How great--- Kawamura gets to be w Tazawa sempai
I wish I were Kawamura
Seems ke their relationship is more than just director and vice-director
Yeah. looks like hey have a problem
I ooked like they were really having fun too

Ed. note: I know it doesn't make much sense, but it's an accurate translation

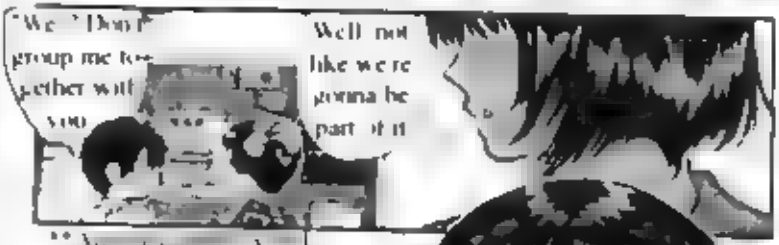
Golly
There's actually such an event!

Konyasai*
後夜祭
There's a dance this year!
Oh
It's a one in 3 year chance! Don't go wasting it!
PM5 30~
At the central court
Cultural Festival Planning Committee


Why are you being so passive
And so what?
Why should I do anything?

What?
Yuuki isn't this really bad
Seems Tazawa sempai is completely

男子トイレ

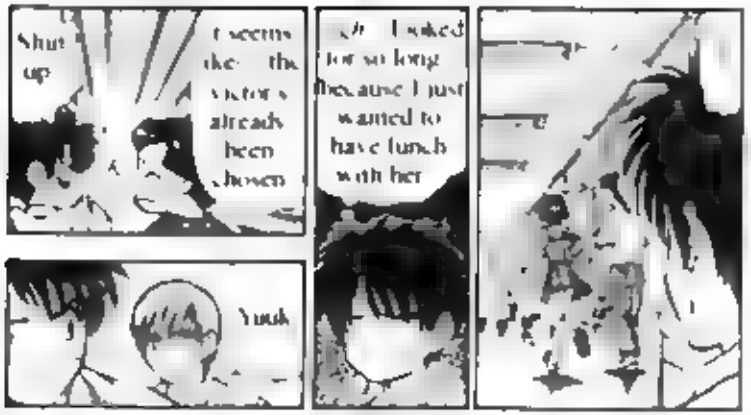

We? Don't group me together with you
Well not like we're gonna be part of it

Ah
Yuuk

Eh?

All of his other achievements are also at the national level
Tazawa sempai is a model student often ranking in the top few places in the National Aptitude Exam
Not to mention good-looking, he has great relatives and power and also Ichika High's
In the tennis singles competition he's also ranked as a top 4 high school player

I'm not talking to any one dressed as sick!
If he really wants to compete with you there's no contest is there!

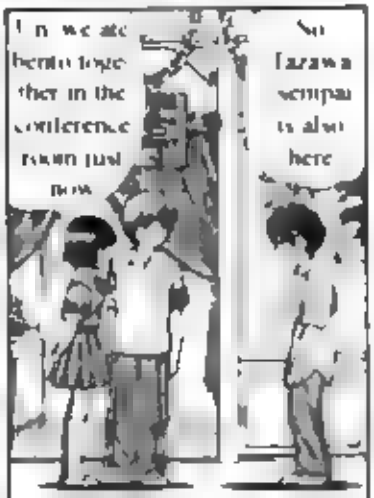

Shut up
It seems like the victor's already been chosen
Yuuki
Sh... I asked for so long because I just wanted to have lunch with her

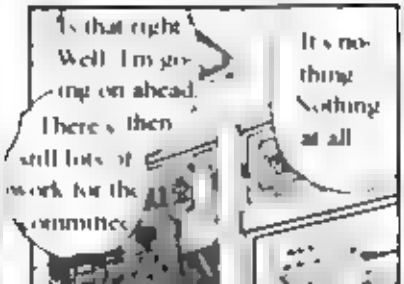
!!
It's tonight
The final battle has come at last

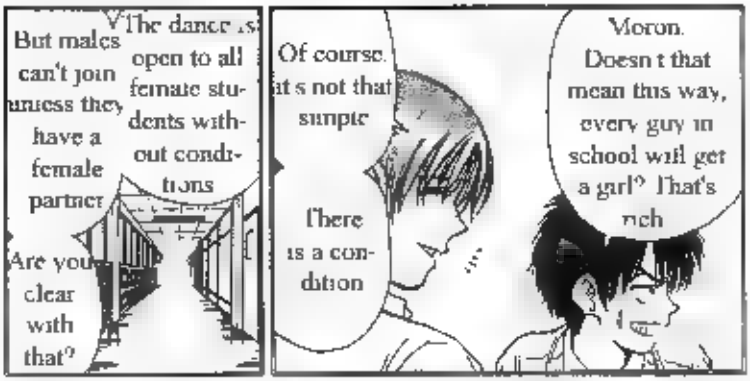
...like to compete with you, okay?
Yuuki, I'd---

Hi

Oh yeah I heard you were looking for me
Me bento together


Um we ate bento together in the conference room just now
So Tazawa sempai is also here

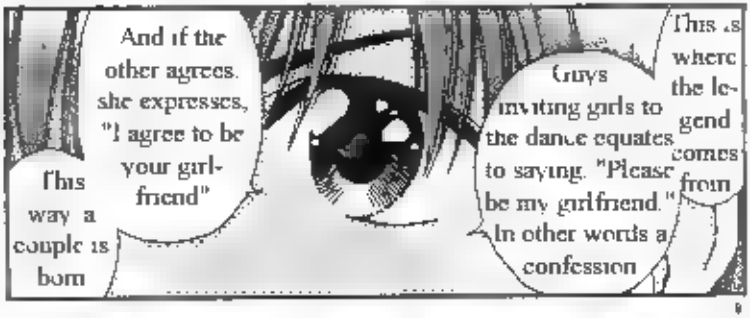

Is that right Well I'm going on ahead. There's then still lots of work for the committee
It's nothing Nothing at all


But males can't join unless they have a female partner
The dance is open to all female students without condrtions
Are you clear with that?
Of course. it s not that simple
There is a condition
Moron. Doesn t that mean this way, every guy in school will get a girl? That's rich

You should know that on the last day of the cultural festival there's a Kouyasai night?
Why? What's there to compete for?

that long-standing 'legend' ?
And

What ?


This way a couple is born
And if the other agrees. she expresses, "I agree to be your girlfriend"
Guys inviting girls to the dance equates to saying. "Please be my girlfriend." In other words a confession
This is where the legend comes from

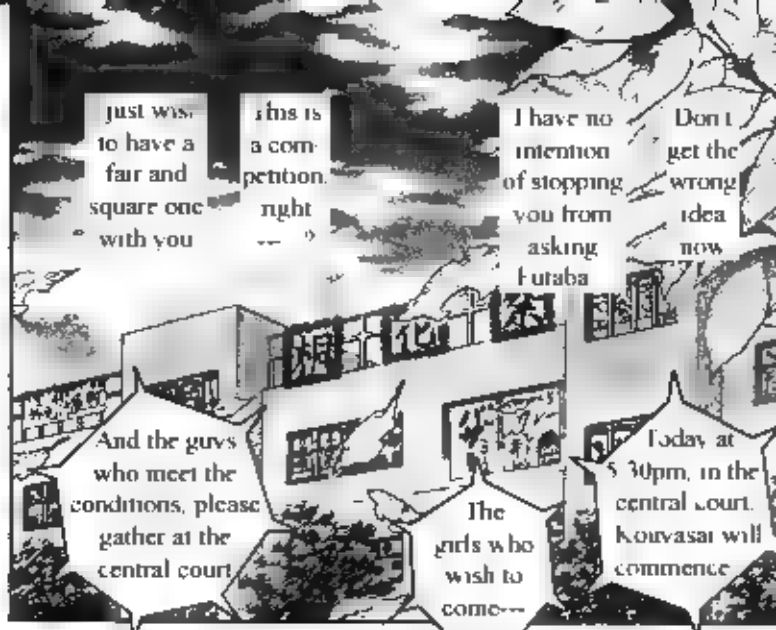
This is my first time as well
Ah I can't blame you Kouyasai is held only once every three years
What? You don't know?
Kouyasai? Legend?

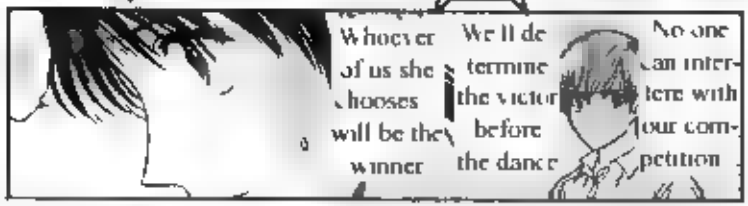
!?
And I plan to invite Futaba to join me

What kind of legend is that?
Nani?
Anyway the legend says that any guy that joins the Kouyasai dance— Will surely get a girl

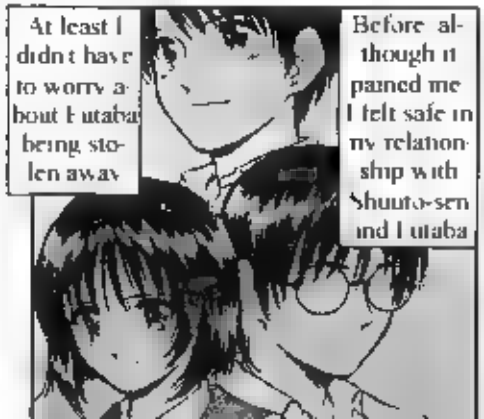
If I hesitate again I'm afraid Tazawa-sempai will---
But now, it's different ---

But now is not the time for talk
I was afraid I might get hurt
I could only just keep avoiding it
That time we were a bit too close, my courage simply fled from me
"Confession"--- it's not like I've never thought about it
But


I just wish to have a fair and square one with you
This is a competition, right ---?
I have no intention of stopping you from asking Futaba
Don't get the wrong idea now
And the guys who meet the conditions, please gather at the central court
The girls who wish to come---
Today at 3:30pm, in the central court, Kouyasai will commence


Whoever of us she chooses will be the winner
We'll determine the victor before the dance
No one can interfere with your competition

I'm not going to let anyone else have her
Getting hurt's nothing. Real pain lies in an unwillingness to face one's feelings
I have to quickly become more assertive!
Futaba!


At least I didn't have to worry about Futaba being stolen away
Before, although it pained me, I felt safe in my relationship with Shuuto-sen and Futaba

I feel bitter about this current relationship triangle

I can't join the dance .
Go-men
Ah, Tazawa -sempai'
Is that so
Is that so
A-cha ;

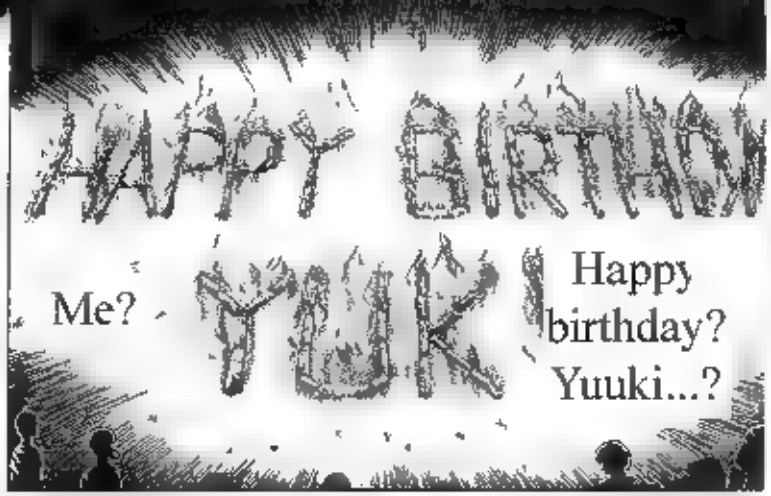
会議室
Just what is going on here?
*Conference Room
open
It has the best view from there
Conference room? Why go there?
The best view?
Huh? Where to?
Conference room
Never-mind. let's go!
Look down
Look down
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Even though I prepared for it
That hurt really hard.
Looks like I can't ask Futaba to make my dinners anymore
Huh?
Yuuko ...
Might as well move away then.
What? Didn't I just tell you?
I can't join the dance!
Huh? What's up? You didn't go to the dance?
Fu Futaba ?
Insufferable I couldn't find you anywhere

Except I like it
Well? You like your gift?
But I worked harder than anyone else so they'd turn a blind eye towards this
...n, even though it's considered an abuse of power
Wha-?!
Today isn't my birthday actually

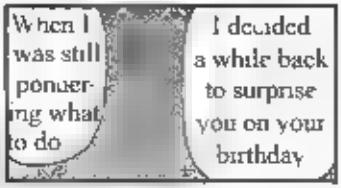
Forget this happened
So embarrassed
...remembered Sept
Darn it
Uso
I was born on June June, not September
No way?!

Really? Really now?
I'm really moved by this
I'm very happy Arigatou Futaba
Eh?


HAPPY BIRTHDAY YUUKI
Me?
Happy birthday? Yuuki...?

?
If I'm not mistaken, today's your birthday?
Happy birthday, Yuuki

I wanted to surprise you, that's why I joined the committee

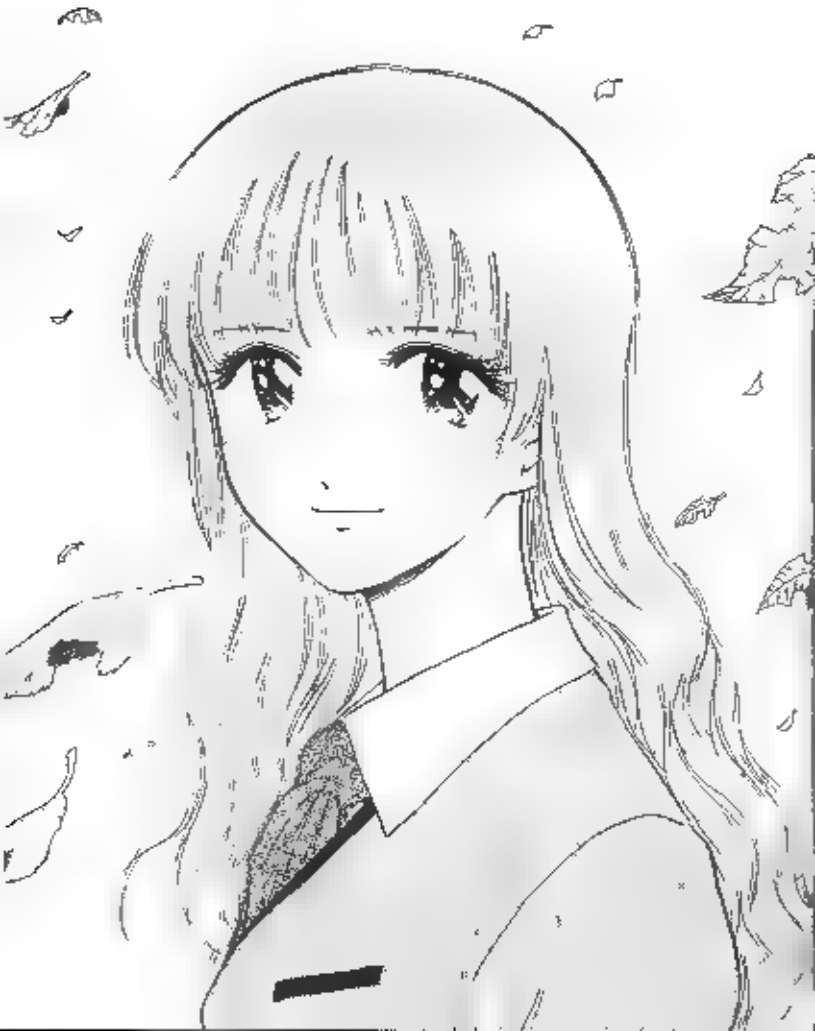

When I was still pondering what to do
I decided a while back to surprise you on your birthday

So I decided
I realized that it fell on the last day of the Tohka Festival

The future's a long way
But there's still space for me to move in, right?
just stared out of that window as if time itself stood still

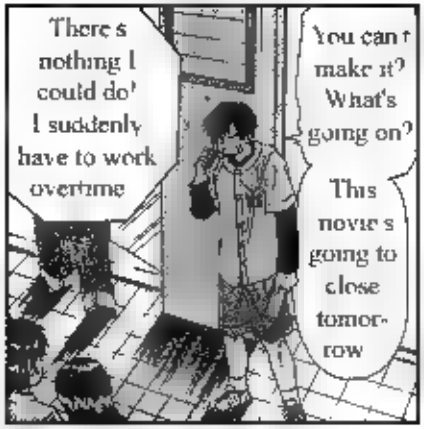
PART5

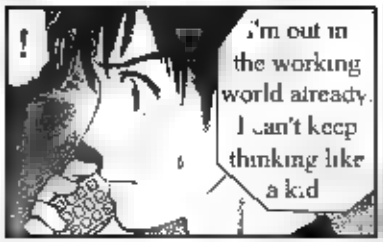
The Love of a Brat



With this, Kiriyama Aoi bid me farewell 48 hours has passed since then.
都立野沢台高等学校
*Nozawa Public Senior High
But even now I couldn't accept the reality
3-5
Time to eat!
Hey Keiji
Even if we were to resume this, it wouldn't go anywhere
Keiji
Good-bye

I……
I'm not a brat!
You brat!
Asshole I was just trying to help you get over this, and you treat me like this!!
I……
That pisses me off!
I've always liked you a lot
Please go out with me
Even though I understand her reasons for parting with me so suddenly I still
*Student Mess Hall
Stop it
Yeah, you're young You can easily find a new romance
All this moping won't get you anywhere
学生食堂
Not to mention she's an office lady now
The lifestyles are just too different
You know maybe finding someone older is too heavy for you
I'm done eating
What's the big idea?
!?


There's nothing I could do! I suddenly have to work overtime
You can't make it? What's going on?
This movie's going to close tomorrow



We started going out after I confessed

March, on graduation day---

I finnly believed it was so

But we definitely won't let this affect us. We will proceed on forward like this!

And thus it becomes the odd pairing of an office lady with a high school student

She was in the trades program in school, so I was well aware that she'd start working right after graduation

Hey look at that
Thank you for your patronage
!!
Yeah really ...
What? That guy is actually letting the girl pay?
Yeah come to think of it, they don't look very much like a couple
But that guy is still a student right?
Well probably they're siblings?
For the meal
What's this for?
Better pay for our own after a...
Take it
For both!
Or sorry for not calling back?
Sorry for breaking our date
What for?
Geez forgive me already
I'm really sorry this time
Wah!
I got my first paycheck
Huh?
I'll treat you to dinner today
Okay consider this my form of making it up
Satisfied?
Delicious! First time I've ever had such a good full course meal
Of course!

Even though I understood, I still couldn't hold it in
But then . . .
I'm younger, and still a student, that's why I felt worthless.
The reasons are simple, and clear

Almost to the point of loathing
And this made me even more angry
Looking at me this way, even if Aoi-chan did feel saddened, her face still gave me that warm smile, and this made me feel even more worthless

Goodbye, Kenji
In the end, her warm smile did fade, and then---

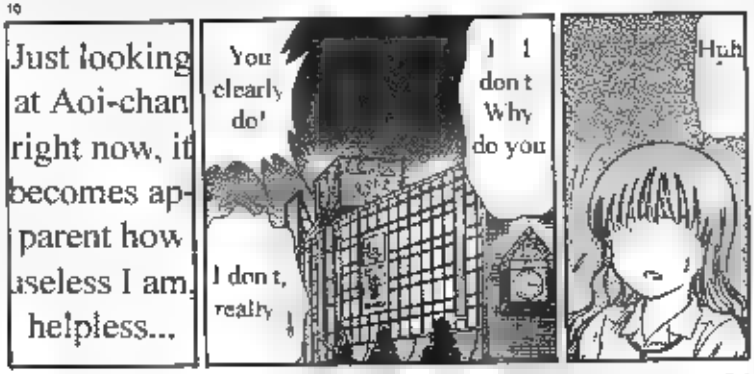
Well I'll do that

I said take it
Huh? No need, it's my treat, really

But is this okay?

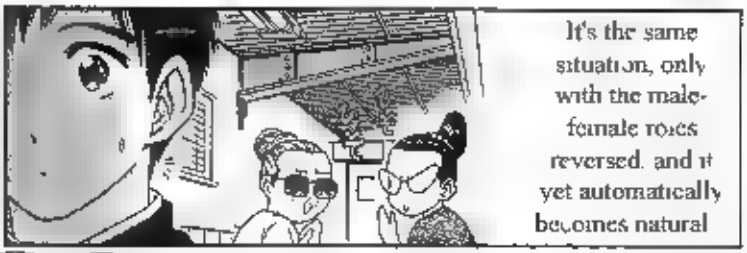
Don't keep treating me like a little brat, ok?!
What did you mean by that?!

10

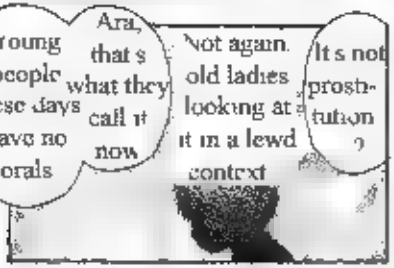

Just looking at Aoi-chan right now, it becomes apparent how useless I am, helpless...
You clearly do!
I don't, really
I don't. Why do you
Huh

It's a high school girl salaryman relation-ship
right ?

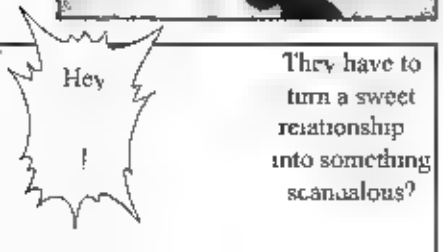
They seem happy
it's rather envi-able


It's the same situation, only with the male-female roles reversed, and it yet automatically becomes natural

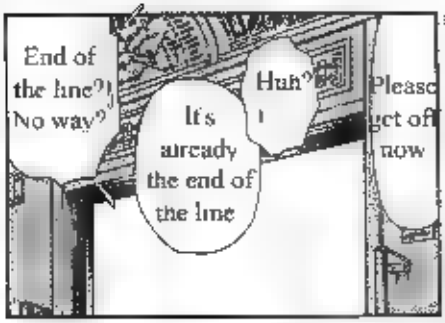
3

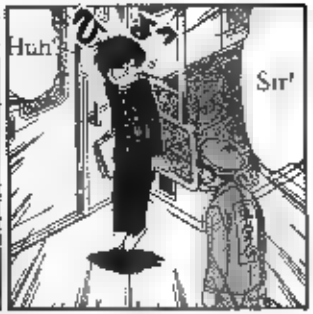

Young people these days have no morals
Ara, that's what they call it now
Not again, old ladies looking at it in a lewd context
It's not prosti-tution ?

Really now, dating with compensa-tion in broad daylight?
I say, madam, look!

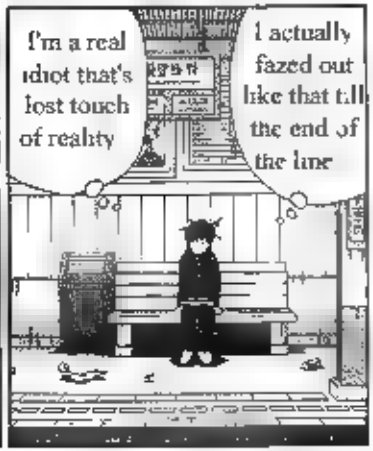

Hey !
They have to turn a sweet relationship into something scandalous?

Sir
And we broke up just like that


End of the line? No way?
It's already the end of the line
Huh?
Please get off now


Huh?
Sir!

12


I'm a real idiot that's lost touch of reality
I actually fazed out like that till the end of the line

Su
goi
Girls these days are certainly
Hey— Madam did you hear that?

up"
—don't mind them! Let 'em say what they want. We don't give a damn!

Su-
goi
yo!

Dun
no
who
that
Thank
you!
Thank
you very
much!

Sugoi yo
Well spoken!
It's gotten me
so pumped
up now

Don't always
judge people
with that
kind of lewd
context
will ya"
You
old hag!
I heard
that!

huh
?
Oh
my

And wouldn't
be fazed by
your stupid
comments
We're
really
seriously
dating
here!

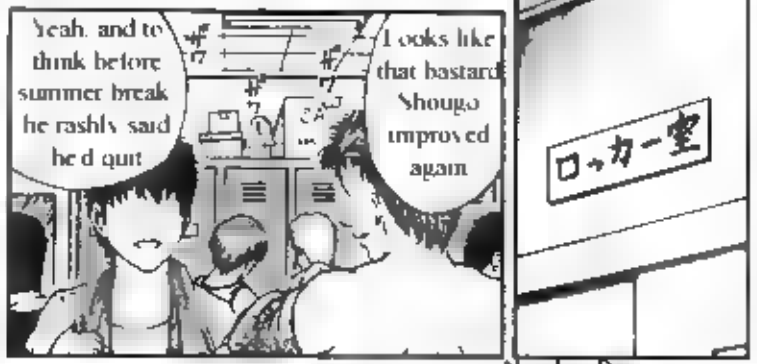
Moronic
to the
max!
Ma'aku!
You always
compare what
you see on
TV and think
it's what
this is!

Just like that
That's right
There's no need to protect me, you're like this
What's so amusable about an OL with a high school student
So what if I'm a brat
shouldn't care what other people think, right
Ken-
What's a high school girl want
Ayu-chan! Who's the A friend
Ayu-chan
another chance? How about it
What's more important to you? me or her
Can we give us
Ayu-chan!
Uh
Then let's grab the next train
Then I'm in need today

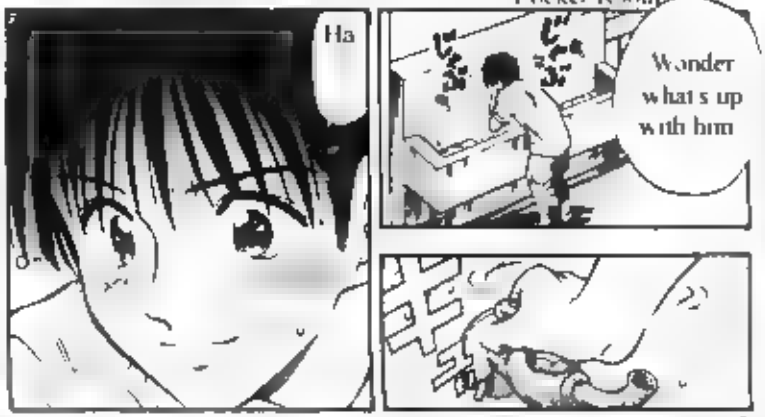
Regretful to have parted with you like that
Actually I was really very regretful
Thank you I'm really happy that you came
Follow my example I have no problem at all with that'
You didn't have to care about age like that'
But Kenji, you really shouldn't have'
Not really
Wow you've matured a bit
Who asked me to be such a stubborn brat
I'm
It can't be helped I'm a brat after all
Eh? You want me to treat you?
No. let's go grab a bite
No way? You're abusing this situation a bit much. don't you think? How infuriating'
Un, great I'll let sempai take care of the bill now Thanks

PART6
Love Put into a Shoe Locker

In the shoe locker, hides a far-away letter ..
To Takeda
竹田 省吾君へ
Shougo-kun
From. M
Mより
There is a reply ..!!
Ban-zai !

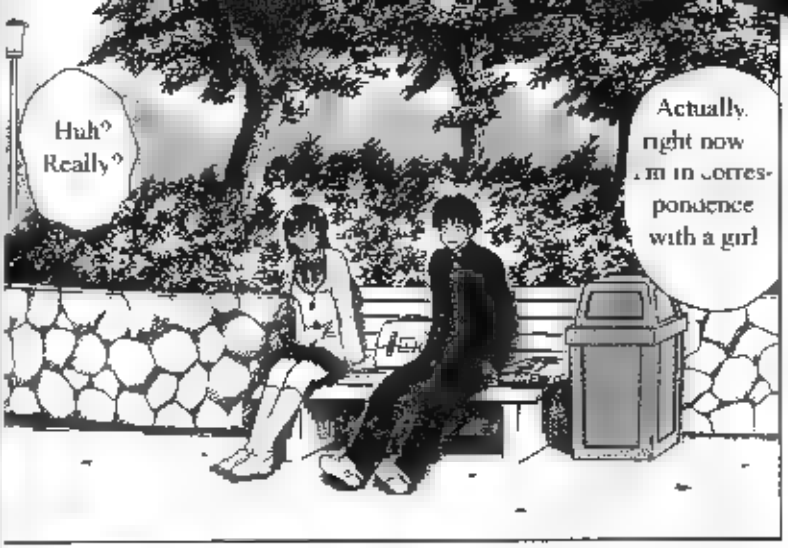

Yeah, and to think before summer break he rashly said he'd quit
Looks like that bastard Shougo improved again
ロッカー室

Locker Room


Ha
Wonder what's up with him

Ah' Manager -san---
Eh'
Shou-go -kun

Great---! I have to put on a good per-formace now!
Pass' Pass'
Aho! Stop Spread your arms out
Defense ---!

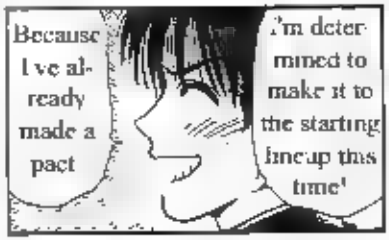

Huh? Really?
Actually right now I'm in correspondence with a girl

What's her name? Her age
Dunno
Hey so what kind of girl is it? Is she cute?
Dunno

It's not what you think at all
But who still writes mail in this digital age?
Woohoo--- Shougo-kun hides a few cards up his sleeve

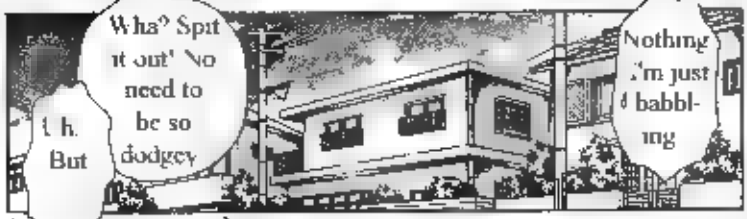
She calls herself M. that's all
The only thing I know is that she's from our school

It's true What can I do about it?
Are you yanking me?


Because I've already made a pact
I'm determined to make it to the starting lineup this time!

Heehee ---Yeah. I guess
Shougo-kun, you seem energized lately
Starters for the Fall Tournament are gonna be announced tomorrow

Ah
A pact? With who?

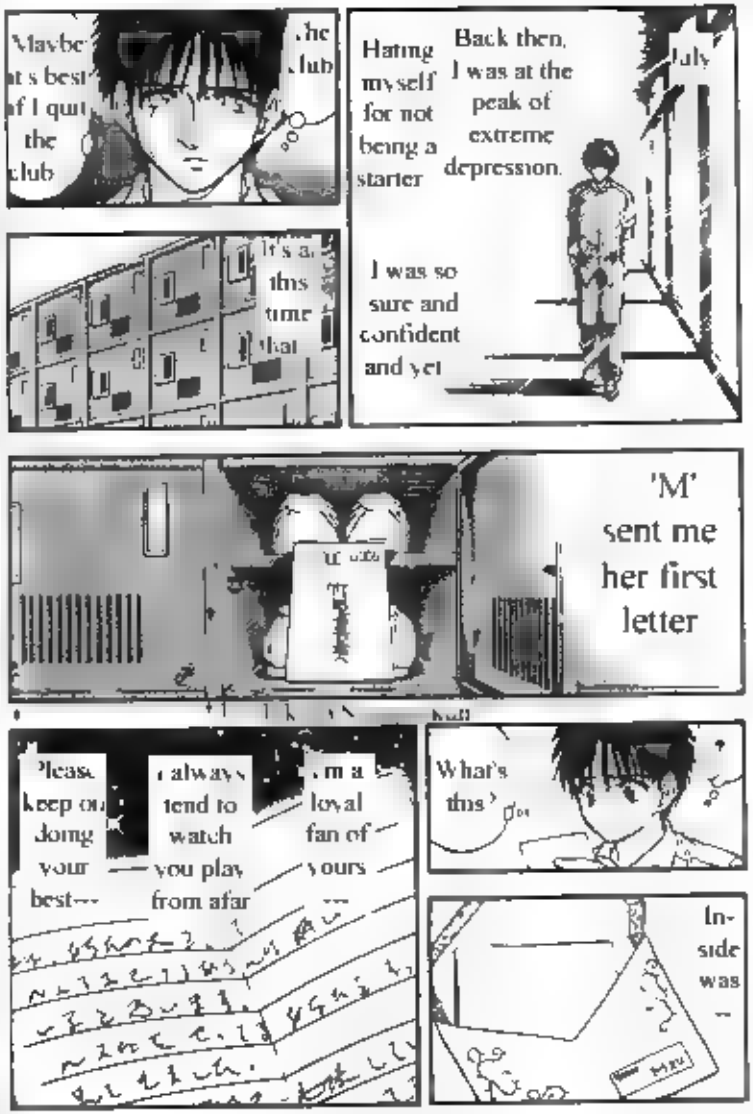

Wha? Spit it out! No need to be so dodgey
Uh. But
Nothing I'm just babbling

Believe me. my lips are sealed
But never let this get out okay?

Oh well. It wouldn't hurt to tell the basketball manager

*Yagu Park

Someone wanting to tease me for not making the starting lineup?
What can I do? I thought I was being toyed with
But I was wrong
Now way How can you be so mean?
It nicked me off so much that I tore it up right there
Afterwards I recieved her letters of encouragement pretty much everyday
I feel lonely not being able to see you play
Why don't you join the basketball club's activities anymore?
She really wrote the letters to cheer me on
So, I finally replied back and placed it in the shoe locker
Thank you. I will do even better
I dunno why but I felt really happy
That girl really seems to be watching me all the time
And that's how we correspond


Maybe it's best if I quit the club
The club
It's at this time that
Hating myself for not being a starter
Back then, I was at the peak of extreme depression.
July
I was so sure and confident and yet
'M' sent me her first letter
Please keep on doing your best---
I always tend to watch you play from afar
I'm a loyal fan of yours ---
What's this?
Inside was --
MAY

You really like that girl?
Shougo kun

yeah
This means it's an OK. right?

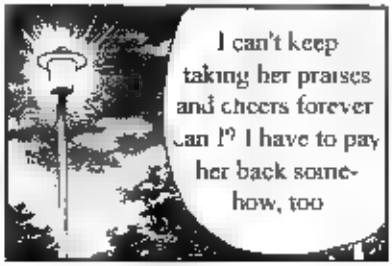
ue. nande mona.
Huh?

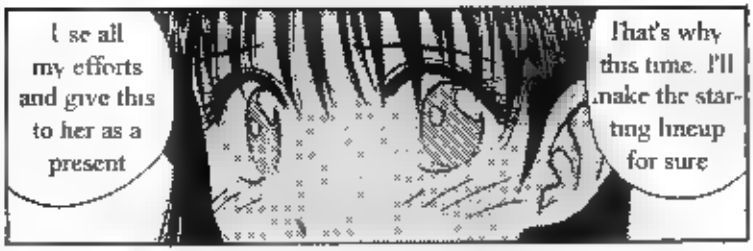
Good bye!
I suddenly remembered I had to do something I'm going on ahead

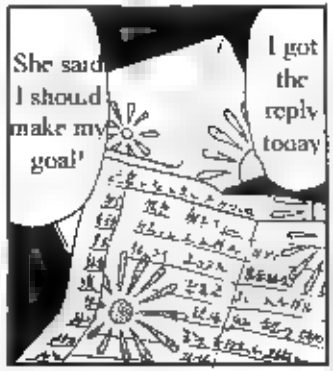
Huh? I h--- Bye

Eh?

I might have fallen for that girl already

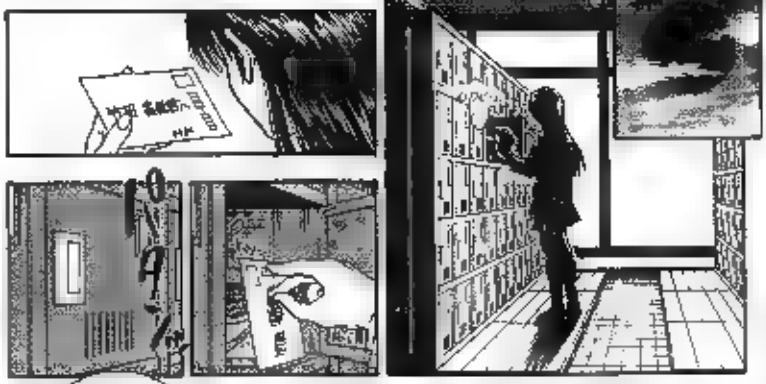

I can't keep taking her praises and cheers forever can I? I have to pay her back somehow, too


I use all my efforts and give this to her as a present
That's why this time. I'll make the starting lineup for sure


She said I should make my goal!
I got the reply today

I wrote a letter telling her "If I make the starting lineup. can you meet with me?"
I also decided to confess to her then

What in the world is going on?
Announcing the starting lineup for the Fall Tournament
Now...
C'mon Takeda Shougo!
Also F...
F... Oomori Masayuki
C'mon Takeda Hiro
Here!
Here!
CONS
It's M's letter
How can this be
Please keep on working hard. You have to make the starters
Though this may be rude I can't meet with you after all
I can't write anymore either
Takeda Shougo
this is

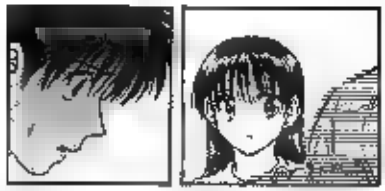


What's up? Didn't you say you wouldn't write to me anymore?

M's from the M of manager, right?
I guessed it after you ran away
I knew it. 'M' was you

Shougo, ganbaru zo I've got faith in you

What's the matter? Answer!
Huh

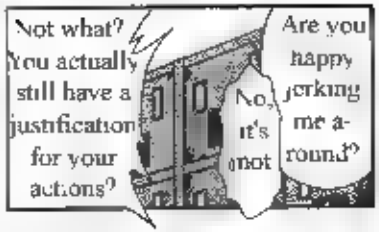


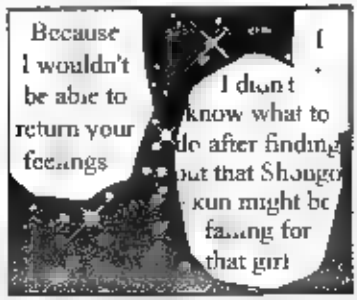
I will do my best

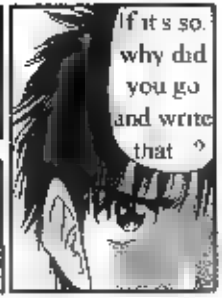
Thank you, coach
Yes sir

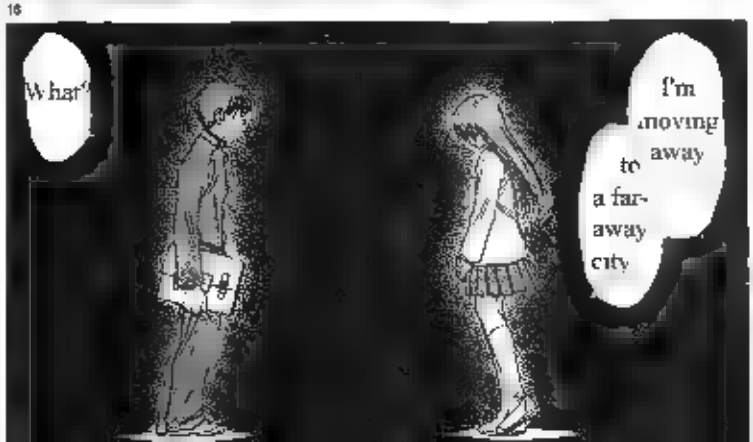
You little idiot What are you talking about?

I've always liked you a lot...




Because I wouldn't be able to return your feelings
I don't know what to do after finding out that Shougo-kun might be falling for that girl





And I still kept that old habit
A few days later--- She moved away from this city
Un……
Don't jump to conclusions alright?'
It's only right to return one's feelings'
The two of us have already begun
Yeah
We're almost late for club'
What are you doing? Shougo
No no- thing
What are you looking at?
You seem to open that shoe locker a lot

And
Talking about the new city the new school
I got her first letter since moving schools
Yesterday
The classmates gave me funny looks because of it. I was so embarrassed
As I actually accidentally put this in the shoe locker
the first time I laughed so openly since her leaving
This is
This is also the place where our romance bloomed
In the shoe locker hides a far-away letter

PART 7

The Fruit of Promise

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
Sa-
kumi
'Pro-
mise'
no ?
No
good
Just 3
seconds
spare
me
You're
3 sec-
onds
late!
Yuu-
zou'
O
oma-
tase
Or have
you for-
gotten
already?
During an
agreement
to meet,
one cannot
be even a
second late
You have to
keep your
word in any-
thing you
promise me
Pro-
mise
me
8
9
10
野沢駅
NOZAWA STATION
Pro-
mise
me,
okay

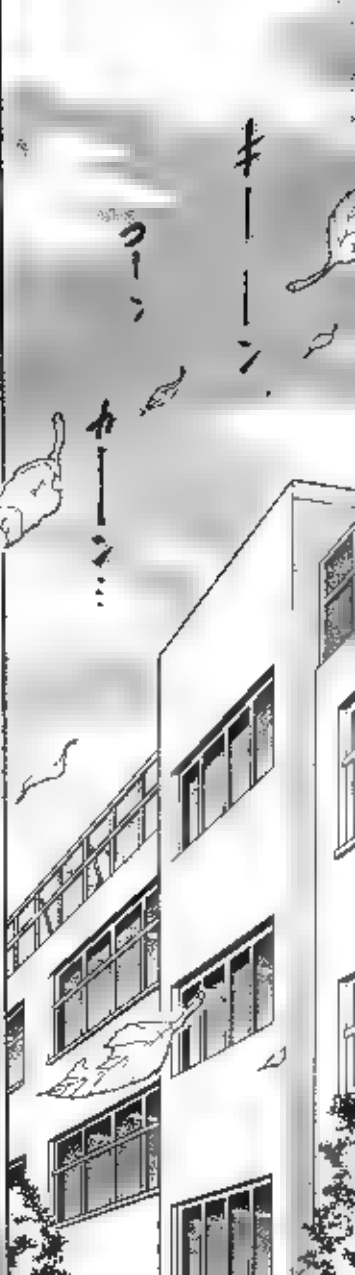
We must immediately break up!
Once 5 or more offences have been committed in a month
just be a bit more careful
I hate guys that can't keep their word the most
!
!

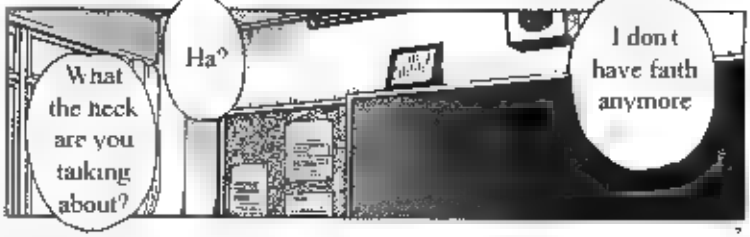
An ultra 'Promise maniac'
Yamamoto Sakumi is Ioono Yuuzou's girlfriend
Mou. Yuuzou. really now
You gotta be a little more careful'
And as long as we are dating, there will be no exceptions
You do still remember promise no. 128, right?
Yes
She has this problem of setting rules for things both big and small
Yes. I'm sorry
No matter what, she keeps discussing the promises' with me
Has to carry her bag for...
Do you know? This is the 3rd offense this month already

There's still 2 weeks left on this month.
Why?
Huh?

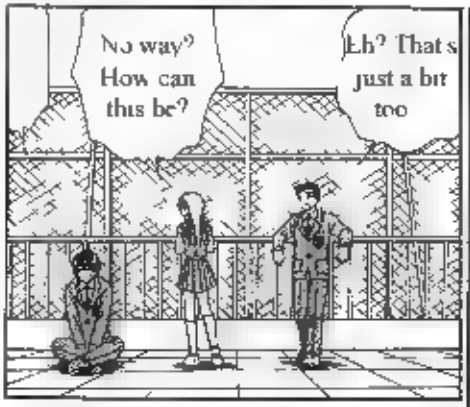
We might be breaking up

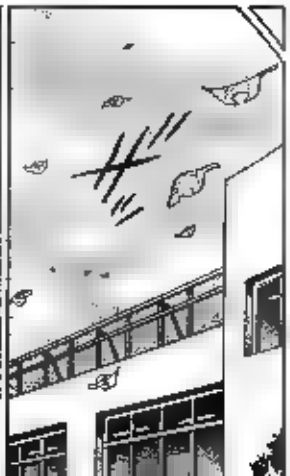
はぁあ


キーン
コーン
カーン…


What the heck are you talking about?
Ha?
I don't have faith anymore

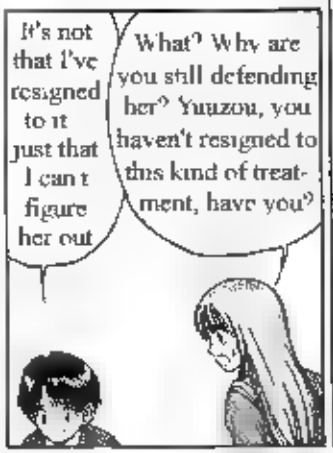
Kimura, Shimokawa
What's wrong? Sighing like that?
Oi Yuuzou!


No way? How can this be?
Eh? That's just a bit too



Didn't you go on a date with Yamamoto Sakumi last yesterday?
You've got a cute girlfriend, what more's there to want?

It doesn't matter
Don't mind him Don't listen to what that bozo says
Kimura
If I was your girlfriend, I wouldn't want you
Well there's no saving you now A guy like you who's always so unassertive and such a pushover ——


It's not that I've resigned to it just that I can't figure her out
What? Why are you still defending her? Yuuzou, you haven't resigned to this kind of treatment, have you?

Nevermind, Shunokawa It's my fault for not keeping my word to begin with
Isn't this like an ultimatum? What is Sakumi thinking?

Don't aim to make her just like you, make her really love you .

Huh?
But what Kimura says isn't without its points

But this kind of attitude would, on the contrary make the girl uncertain
I can understand your uneasiness.

You're a man, you should be able to make her really love you
Don't aim to make her just like you.

All this time did she even seriously like me?
Sakumi

I've lost the faith that I can still keep making her like me
But that is what makes me uneasy

You're right about that
What are you talking about? You're together because she confessed to you, right?

This day has finally come!
Yo-katta

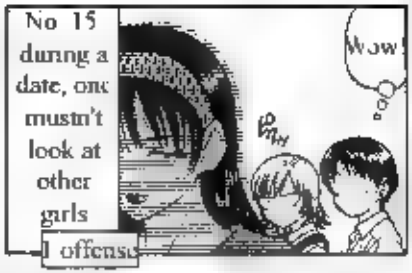
My offenses counter will be reset!
31
If I can make it through today

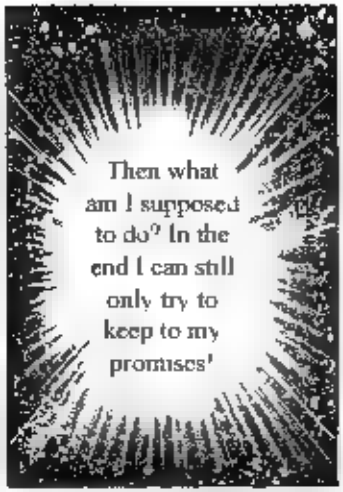
But that still only makes it just 4 offenses
Even though I was careless and broke no. 15, during a date, one mustn't look at other girls

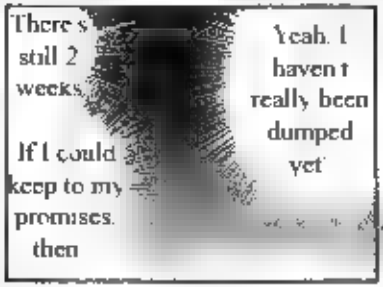
Ah

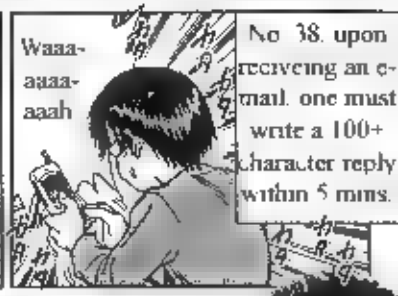
キーン
カーン
コーン

It's Yuu-zou
Hi Sa-ku-mi
Promise no. 2 one must give a call everyday


No. 15 during a date, one mustn't look at other girls
1 offense
Wow!


Then what am I supposed to do? In the end I can still only try to keep to my promises!


There's still 2 weeks.
If I could keep to my promises, then
Yeah. I haven't really been dumped yet


Waaa-aaaa-aaah
No. 38. upon receiving an e-mail, one must write a 100+ character reply within 5 mins.

2000
10 October

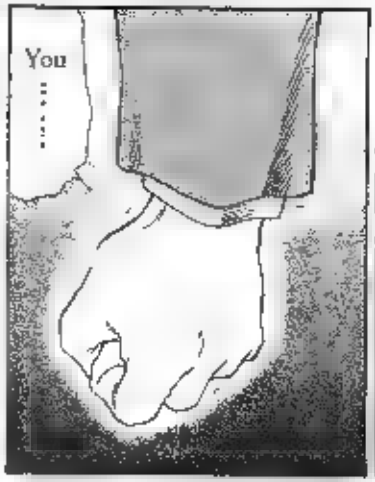
If I could do that, then ..!

Don't bother me, ok?
What happened? Talking about it will make it better
But
Ah, Saku-mu!
Oh no! If I don't cheer her up.
h?
1 of-fen-ce
If I don't cheer you up, I'll break promise no 81
No 96— One shouldn't pester me when I'm feeling irritable
Wha ?

Sa-kumi

Oha
Oha-you!
Promise no 41, one must be energetic in their greeting
?
No 81 — When feeling depressed, one must impart encouragement
She doesn't seem alert
No thing
Huh? Sakumi? What's the matter?

Good bye

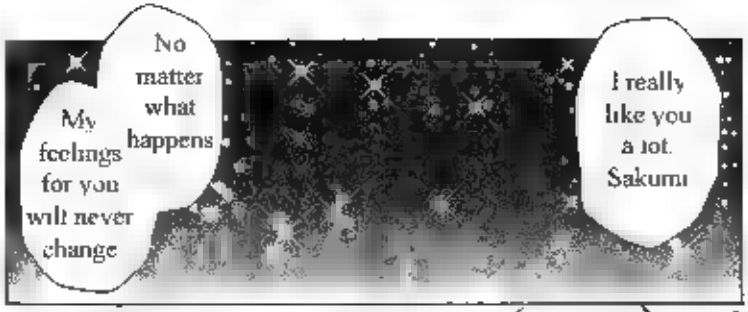

You
.....

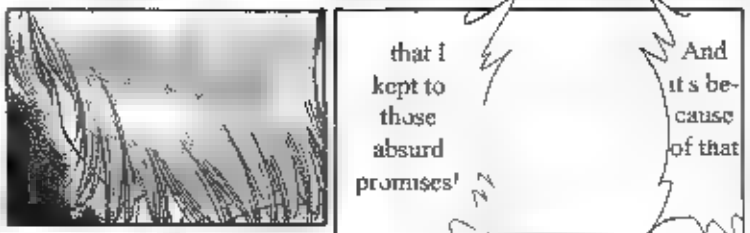
Good bye

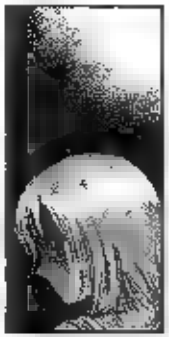
She wasn't feeling depressed but rather feeling irritable
I'm finished!

We must immediately break up
Once 5 or more offenses have been committed in a month
No 128

There was just 10+ hours left to this month
It's a shame

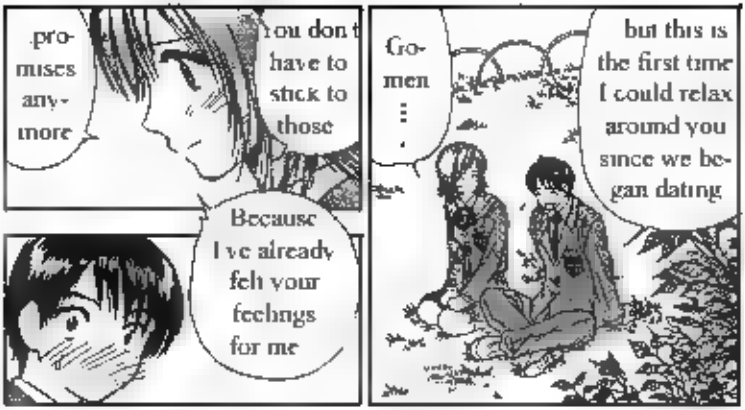


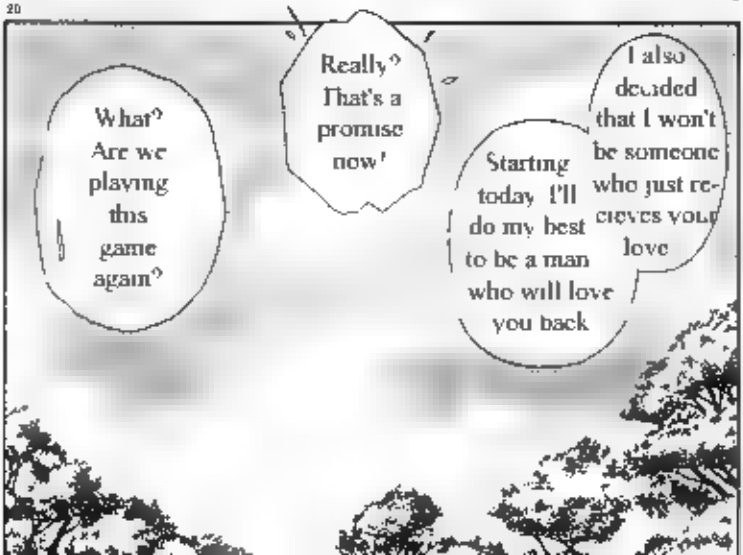




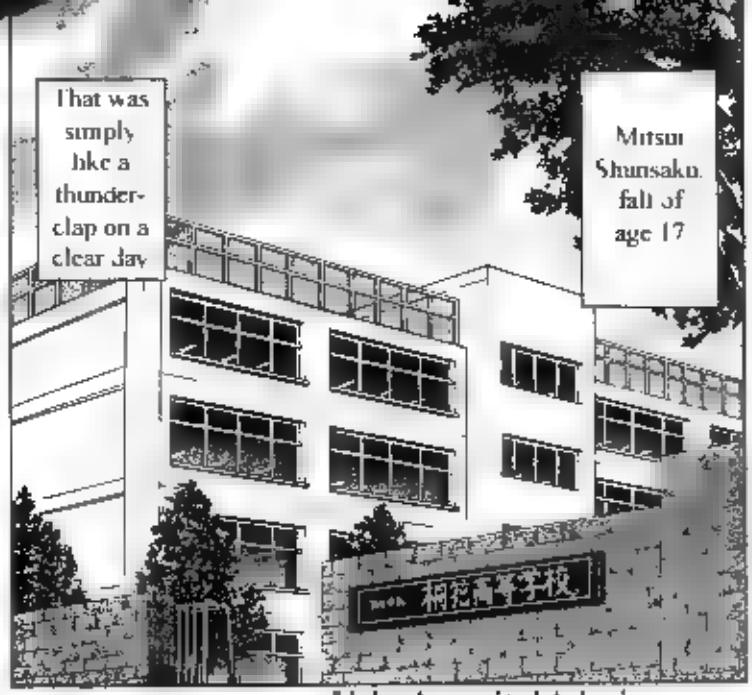
I got it wrong after all

Thank you for breaking this promise
Looks like I wasn't the only uncertain party after all.
It was only with no 128 I really wished that you'd break that one
Huh?
I always felt uneasy about it
Yuuzou, you just follow my every wish
But you never let your true feelings show
It's only when you keep your promises that I could drown out all my uncertainties.
So I constructed those promises to ensure our togetherness
That is why
I've heard you say you like me
I'm so happy. This is the first time
How should I say this It may be a little odd


pro-
mises
any-
more
You don't
have to
stick to
those
Because
I've already
felt your
feelings
for me
Gu-
men
...
but this is
the first time
I could relax
around you
since we be-
gan dating


What?
Are we
playing
this
game
again?
Really?
That's a
promise
now!
Starting
today I'll
do my best
to be a man
who will love
you back
I also
decided
that I won't
be someone
who just re-
ceives your
love

I don't get it myself
I don't know why I've fallen so much in love that I can't contain it
RESTAURANT Diner
PART8
Love is a One-way Street!!
What are you babbling about, you airhead?
Fukuhara?
I think
Kanamachi-kun of 2nd year section 2
I've fallen in love with him..
You're so petty, Mitsui
Frogs are amphibians
I absolutely hate lizards, snakes, frogs and other reptiles
What are you trying to say?

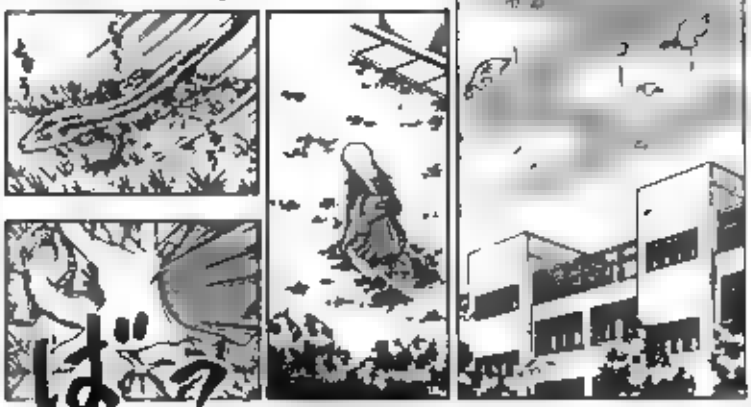


*Tohka Senior High School

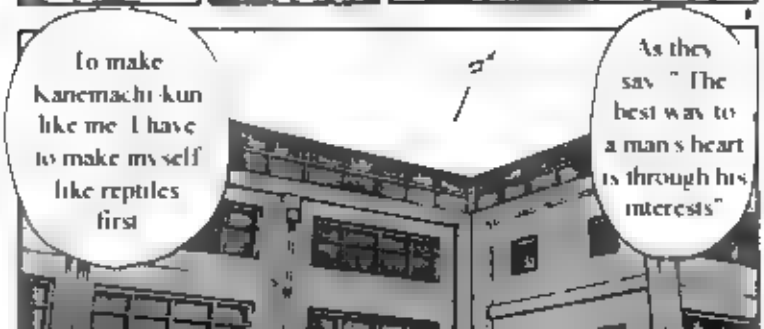
PART8

Love is a One-way Street!!

ガっ
What's a lizard doing on my desk ---?
The heck is that?
And a tropical lizard at that
Hi-dori
Kanemachi, why'd you bring such a dangerous animal here?
Yeah
It's mine
Gomen
It won't attack a human for sure
What's more, it's an herbivore
Don't judge lizards by their appearance. They're quite docile creatures
You can't classify that as dangerous


ばっ

What are you doing
Ah Mi-tsuu
Iukihara
WA AH AH AH AH AH !
Train-ning
Train-ning

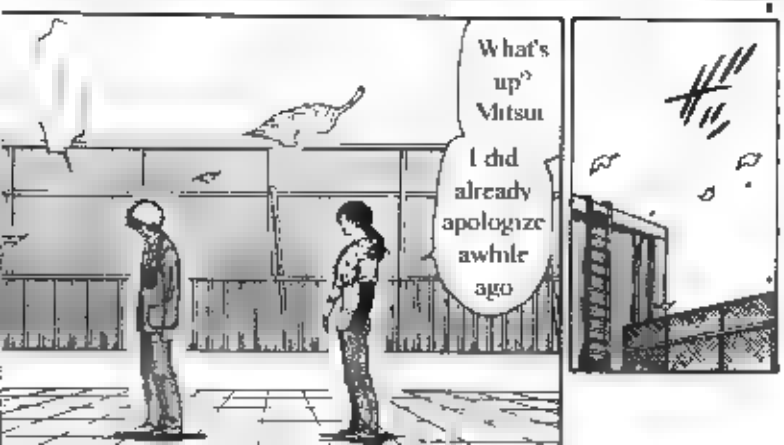

To make Kanemachi-kun like me I have to make myself like reptiles first
As they say " The best way to a man's heart is through his interests"

Even though he's got such a hunky appearance
Kanemachi's something else he's lost
Reptile collector
100 points
Un

It couldn't be helped It said it's lonely and wanted me to bring it along
Even so it's not appropriate to bring this thing to school is it?
What?
What are you talking about

Huh- I think there was a manga called 'henshin' that told of a lizard's daughter
You'd think he was borne by a lizard!
I heard he sleeps with geckos and snakes every night

That's how it is, huh



*Student Mess hall

Mitsu
!
Lookie lookie! Lookie lookie!
I can grab on to lizards so naturally now!

It's no use
I'm so great aren't I?

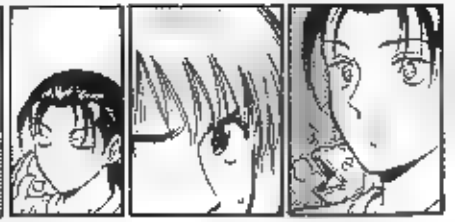
That alone, Kanemachi wouldn't even bat an eyelid at you
Huh?
But
Of course, this scenario is advantageous to me
That alone, he won't notice you for sure
Kanemachi is a jaded reptile collector

Answer now! Or I won't forgive that dirty lizard of yours!
Why'd you ask that all of a sudden?

Huh?

Kanemachi, do you
have a girl you like?

No



I have no interest in human beings
Truth to tell, actually

I have to seize the moment! Seize it before I have any regrets
What? No way?
As long as it will make Kanemachi -kun notice me I'll do anything
Huh ?
I have to put in the effort!

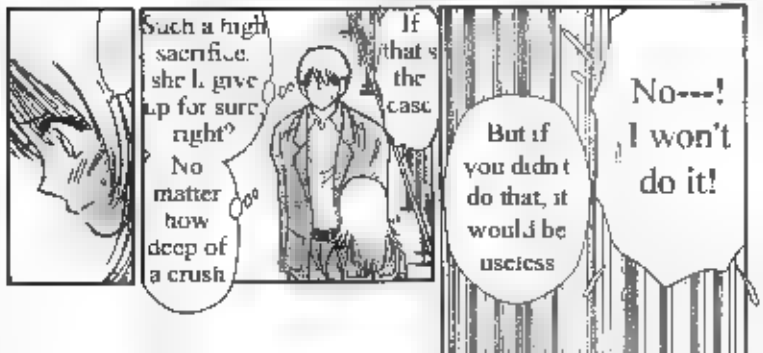
Kane- machi -kun!
She's.. serious ----?
Aa- aah

What should I do then?
If I confessed now, she will just get hurt two-fold

I thank you could
If only she could give up on her own.

It's unforgivable!
To Kanemachi, my precious Fukuhara can't even compare to a lizard? As that reality hit me I
Then what should I do?

proclaim. "Look, this is how much I love lizards!" Or something like that
And then reveal it to Kanemachi, and
put the lizard down your bra
!!?


Such a high sacrifice, she'll give up for sure, right? No matter how deep of a crush
If that's the case
But if you didn't do that, it would be useless
No---! I won't do it!

She really actually did it ---?
Ah
Does it mean he accepts?
How can this be
Kane-machi His face is red
What
I sabotaged myself?
Holy shit!
A

Am I not attractive at all?
I'm a bit crushed
Self-doubt?
.....
Eh?
I think it's because I haven't put in enough effort just yet
I'm sorry
In the end, I've caused Fukuhara even more harm
So if you wanna catch another car, all you can do is increase your speed
By going the usual route you can only cover the same tracks over and over
Before you know it you're back where you started
I feel that, having a crush on someone is like being on a car circuit

Wow This is the first time I've seen the real thing!
Where did you find this?
Amazing!
Isn't this an Oojima Lizard?
This. By all means Can I ask
Can you give this to me ---?
No way? There shouldn't have been a lizard of this kind here naturally
It was nothing. just by the roadside
See ya
Careful, don't catch a cold now
Huh?
Oh
Seeing this, don't tell me you weren't even a least bit touched?

PART9

A Teacher's Love

But the High School Entrance Exams are less than 3 months away this is a very critical period

The comprehension test this time averaged out at 68 5%

You guys have done your utmost --is what I want to say

How about it? I believe that as long as you put the effort in it can be done

Tests at this level should have averaged out at 80%

3

Damn it

わっはは

Especially Arita, who could only manage 16%. This isn't like a jr high student's ability at all!

はは

Those who didn't break 50%. stay behind after class for it

That's why, I'm setting up a tutorial session

What -- for real?

数学 (math)

組 名前 有田ショーヘイ

Arita Shouhei

16

司
の図のように 直線$y=-2x+10$が y軸、x軸と交わる
ぞれA Bとする。原点Oを通り、直線ABと垂直な
をCとして、次の問いに答えなさい。 (5点×3)

(1)線分ABの長さを求めよ。

(2)直線OCの式を求めよ。

の距離を求め

A
C
B
O
x

2

Everyone direct your attention here!

Alright alright! Quiet down!

Hey --- how d you do?

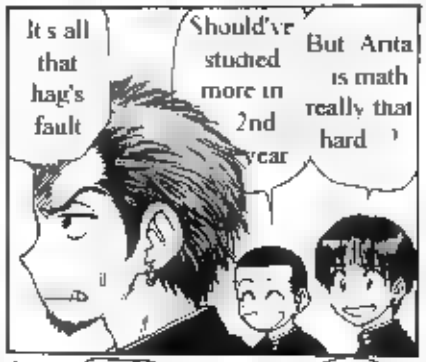
Huh? A slight error---

Huh?
Oi oi
If she wants me to put some effort in, she has to change her appearance first!
Looking at that hag lowers my motivation to learn
I don't recognize teachers that aren't pretty

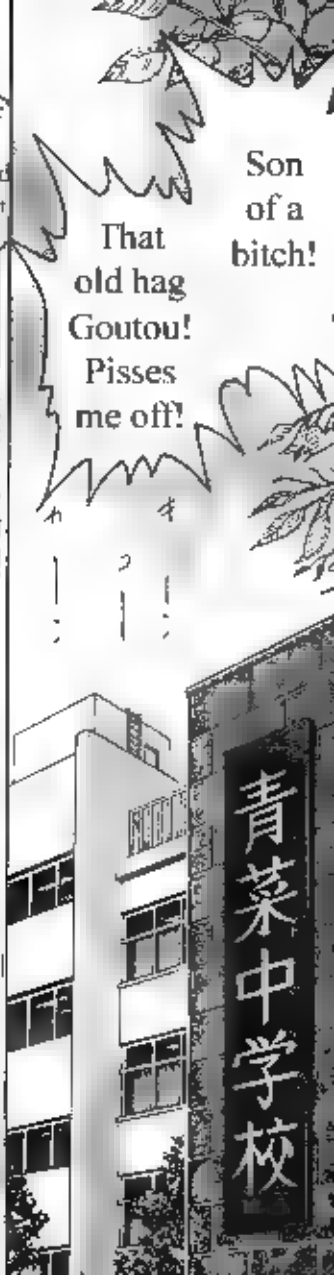
Holy shit! Goutou -sensei !
Hey— Have you said all you have to say?
So there's "-sensei" now?

In exchange
Huh? Really?
If you hate me that much, you don't have to join the tutorial session anymore!
I get it

How many times are you guys gonna rub it in?!
Can't be helped. Who told ya to get 16%?
16% for crying out loud


It's all that hag's fault
Should've studied more in 2nd year
But Anta is math really that hard?

Hey, why'd you say that? What's it got to do with anything?
It's all that hag Goutou's fault
To me, it's got to do with everything


Son of a bitch!
That old hag Goutou! Pisses me off!
青菜中学校

*Aona Jr. High

But it's not possible for circles to be squares, right?
You little
If you really can better your grades from her tutelage I'll recognize your ability
She is pretty
All I can do now is try!
That ugly and spiteful
Damnn. She's a teacher why does she have to give students trouble
Self-perceived
Ojamashumasu
What if it is less than expected.
But is it really a pretty woman!
Aunue
Shouhei! Your home tutor is here!
Grow!

If the results of the retest aren't higher than before, your grade for this semester for math will be 0!
What!
You're clear about how influential the grades for the 2nd sem of 3rd year is to advancement, right?
I understanded
This day next week!
You must accept to take a retest!
What!
!?
Kun
? ?
She's a full-time home tutor now
This is the phone no of a good friend of mine from school

Well lets start the class then
It doesn't suit her image at all
What a flashy name for that old hag
Karen!?

4

But you know Beside that fact you only have a week Will you be alright?
I'm really sorry
Well you really have to try hard now
So that's why— looks like you really blew Karen's horn
Well let's stop here for today

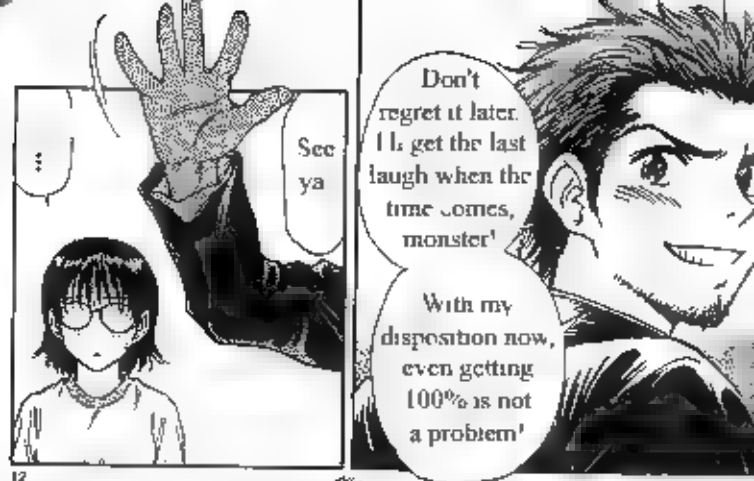
I-wah

You must be Arita Shouhei-kun
God damn!

I hear you like pretty women? Just my luck, eh?
Karen told me the gist of things
That's right

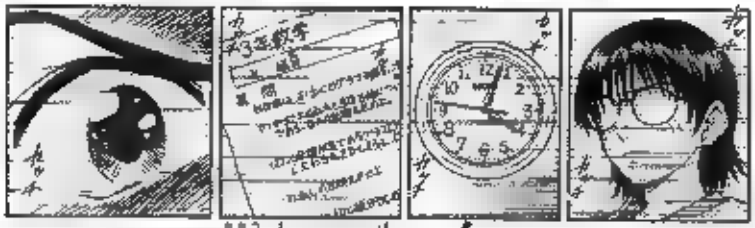
Who? You don't know your own homeroom teacher's name
Karen? Who's she?

Arita!
I have try hard! No, excel!
Great! I'm full of zeal now!
What's the matter?
One look at her and all my energy is drained
6 days till the decisive battle are you going to be alright?
Hee hee hee hee
If I can get better than the passing grade
I m. On the upcoming test
What is it?
Well
Ano Can I ask a favor of you?
Karen isn't an unreasonable person.
It s not yet too late right? Go apologize to her
Can I ask you to grant me a date?
A date
You have to get higher han 80%. got it?
I understand But not getting better than passing breaks the deal
Really? Don't back out now!
Hon- tou
What? How can you suddenly talk of such things?
Please This way I'll be motivated to do my best!
Isn t tutoring in your studies already supposed to do that?

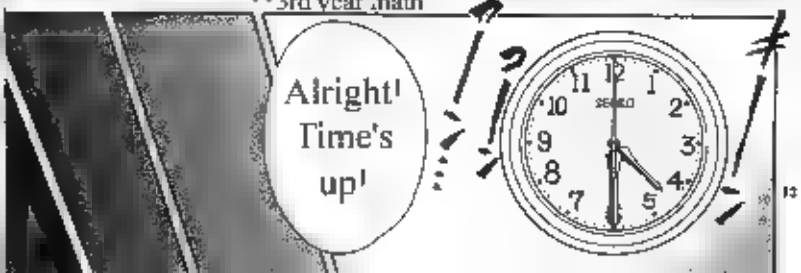

See ya
Don't regret it later. I'll get the last laugh when the time comes, monster!
With my disposition now, even getting 100% is not a problem!

12

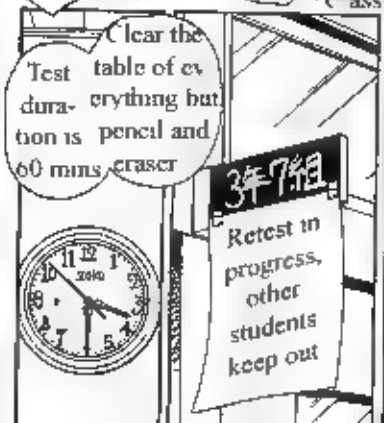
*Class 3-7

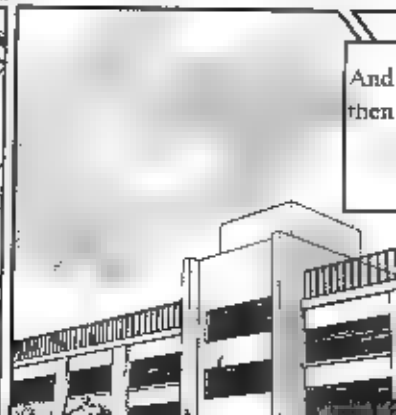


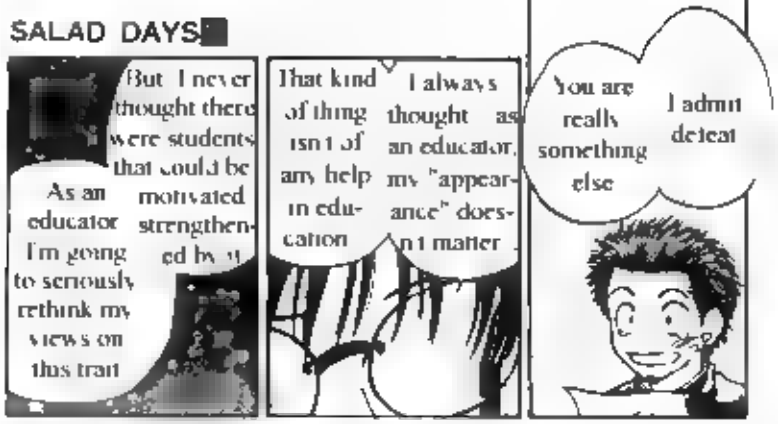
**3rd year ,math



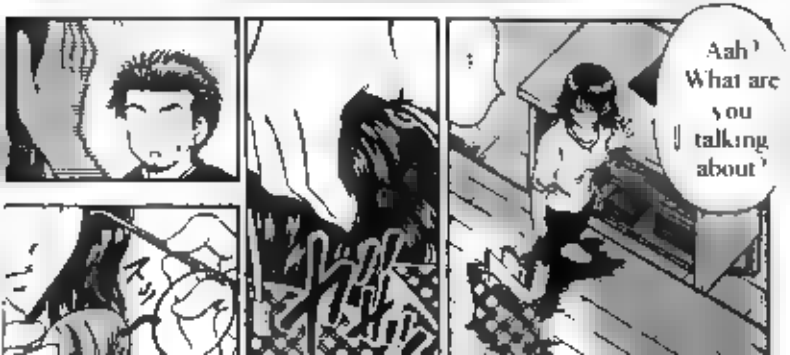
13


Test duration is 60 mins
Clear the table of everything but pencil and eraser
3年7組
Retest in progress, other students keep out




But I never thought there were students that could be motivated strengthened by it
As an educator I'm going to seriously rethink my views on this trait
That kind of thing isn't of any help in education
I always thought as an educator, my "appearance" doesn't matter
You are really something else
I admit defeat

Teachers aren't allowed to be overly intimate with their students
But I really cannot grant a date with you
What? Why are you saying this all of a sudden? It's grossing me out


Aah! What are you talking about?

88
数学
角田ニョーヘイ
フである。次の問いに答えなさい
軸について対称で ABの長さが
A
B
C
D
O
x
y

Huh?

Hehe— What do you think? Did I surprise you?
Yatta!
Yatta!
Yatta!
おるり

I……
Are you messing with me?

Very sorry I didn't mean to decieve
This is the truth of the situation

No way!?
No……
N……
N……

7

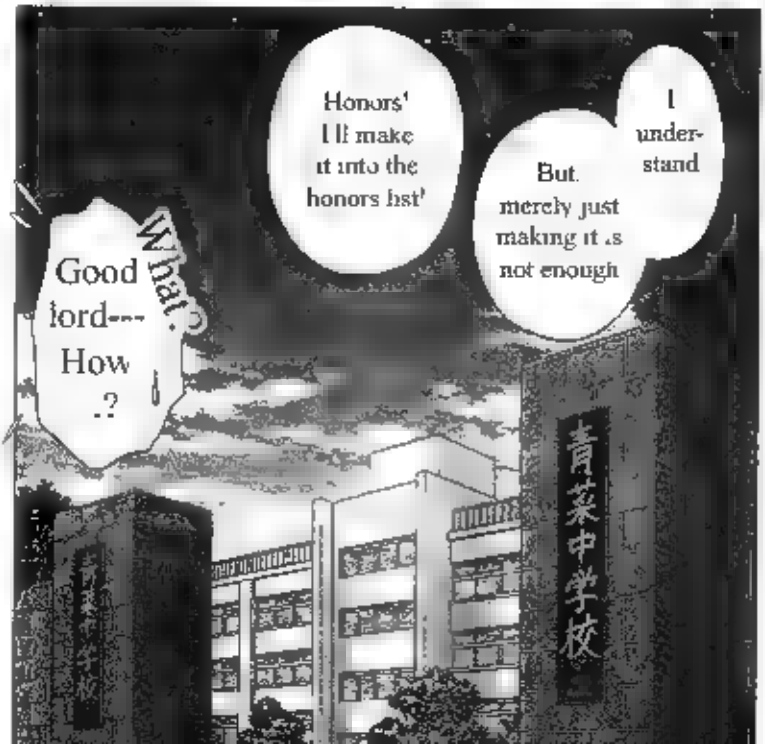
Are you running away?
What kinda joke is this.?
Wait You hold on a sec
ガラッ
Otsu-kare-sama
Well this is the end of the retest

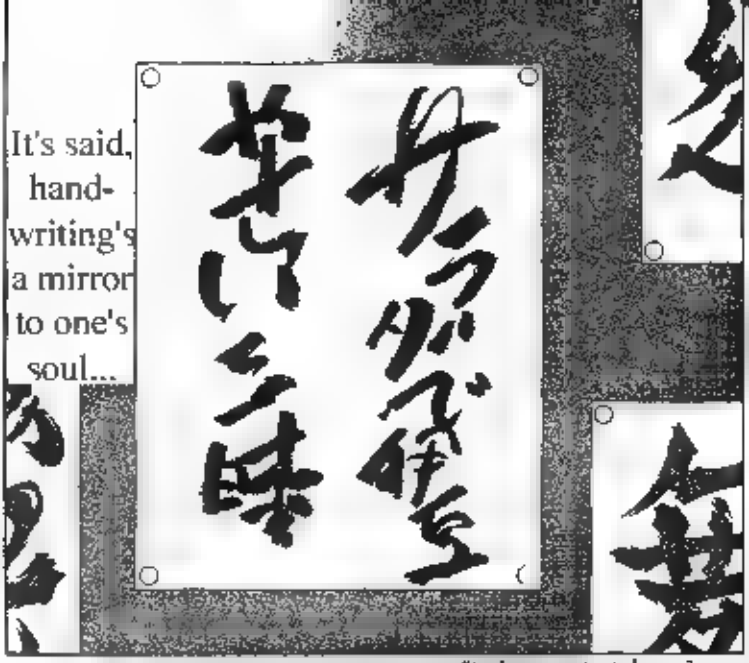
If I m no longer your student, it'd no longer pose as a problem, correct?
Just what if

What .?

16

Go on a date with me, okay?
Once I graduate
That's why.....
I'll show you, that I can make it into a first-choice high school!


Honors! I'll make it into the honors list!
I understand
But, merely just making it is not enough
What?
Good lord--- How..?
青菜中学校

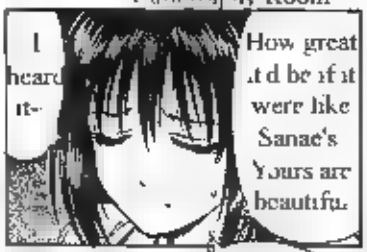


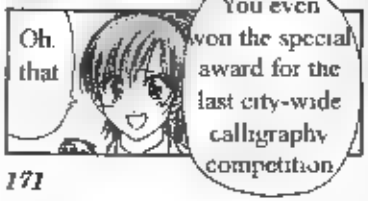
PART.10

*Salads with Italian Beans. bitter only once [I think]

Bad Handwriting Love

Ah. It's Sanae
Why are you sprawled on the floor?
Ikumi ?
書道室
*Calligraphy Room

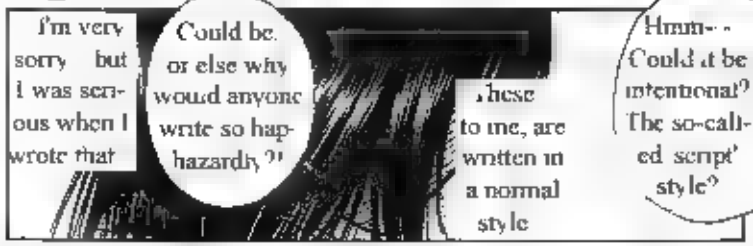

I heard it-
How great it'd be if it were like Sanae's Yours are beautiful


Oh. that
You even won the special award for the last city-wide calligraphy competition

You don't need to laugh like that, ok?
No wonder you're this upset
おほほほっ
(A-ha ha ha--)
無尽
道徳

Huh? How did such a horrible-looking one wander its way here?
I second that. It's worse than a 3 year old's writing

Wow what's this?
It's the works of the calligraphy club
Not bad at all, eh. ?


I'm very sorry but I was serious when I wrote that
Could be. or else why would anyone write so haphazardly ?!
These to me, are written in a normal style
Hmm-- Could it be intentional? The so-called script' style?

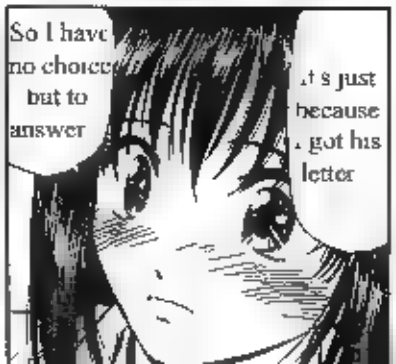
I'm not at all exaggerating. My writing ---is really not a normal kind of ugly

Ugly
Ugh
Huh ?
Ugh

But any way I look at it, it still looks ugly to me
It's probably written by some ugly girl

of class 2-7.
Shiro-yama Kaneto.
Not really It's just
You've got good taste

No way? Shiroyama he confessed to you?
Um That's right

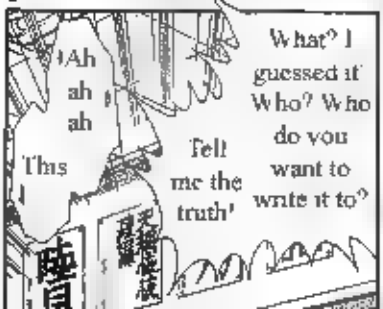

So I have no choice but to answer
It's just because I got his letter

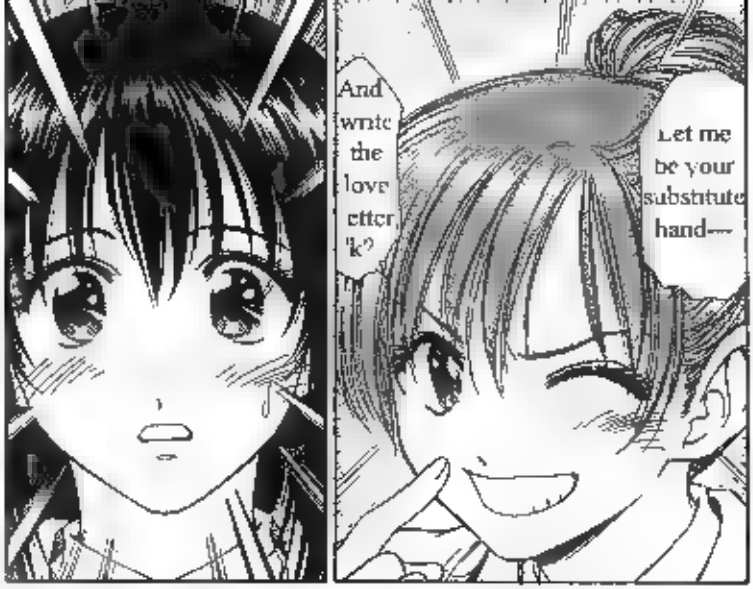
What will it take to make my writing look good?
sigh

If it were me I probably no one can make out what I'd have thrown together
I just threw it together and submitted it to the competition That result just happened.
It was nothing, really. It was nothing

But my handwriting is a hundred times worse than anyone else's.
So just what can I do?
I can only do so in writing
I'm eloquent and shy. If I want to convey my feelings

What?
Ikumi, you aren't trying to write a love letter, are you?


Ah ah ah
This
Tell me the truth!
What? I guessed it! Who? Who do you want to write it to?

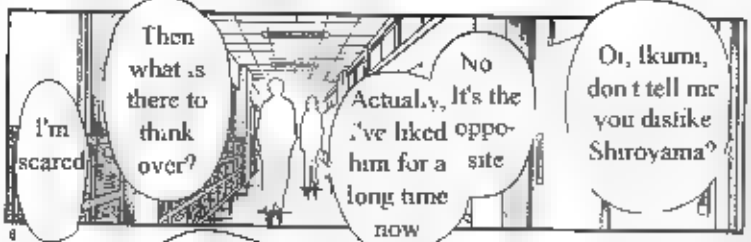

Let me be your substitute hand—
And write the love letter 'k?

Of course! Hurry up already!
Huh? I have to write it now?
Go to the bookstore and buy stationery now!
Good! Don't let it drag on any longer

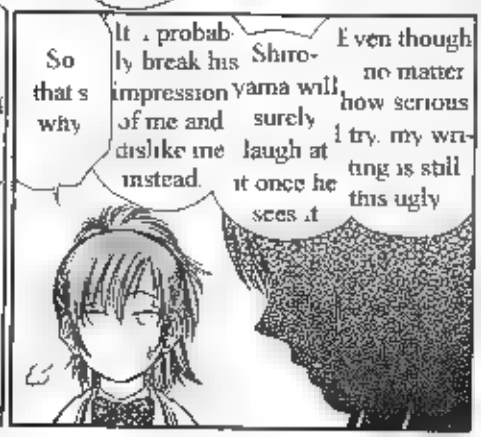
城山兼人様
Shiroyama Kaneto-sama

What the heck should I do?
But really

Come to think of it, you are in his class, Sanae
Amazing! He's a super popular guy with a lot girls that have a crush on him


I'm scared
Then what is there to think over?
No Actually, I've liked him for a long time now
It's the opposite
Oi, Ikumi, don't tell me you dislike Shiroyama?

Huh?
You're hopeless, so let this good friend of yours help you

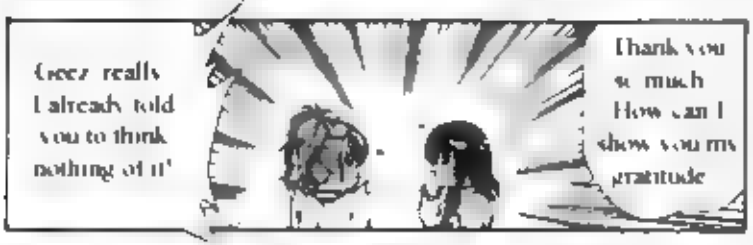

So that's why
It's probably break his impression of me and dislike me instead.
Shiroyama will surely laugh at it once he sees it
Even though no matter how serious I try, my writing is still this ugly

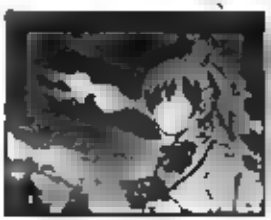
Like hell I'm going to let it go smoothly!
You've gotta be joking

I've eyed at no one else since we became classmates
I've liked Shirowama for a long time now too

Sanae!
Help is but obligatory
As a good friend of course I'll look after your well being

Is this really ok? I'm really sorry about this
Well I'll help you hand the letter to Shirowama in class tomorrow
Think nothing of it Aren't we good sisters after all!

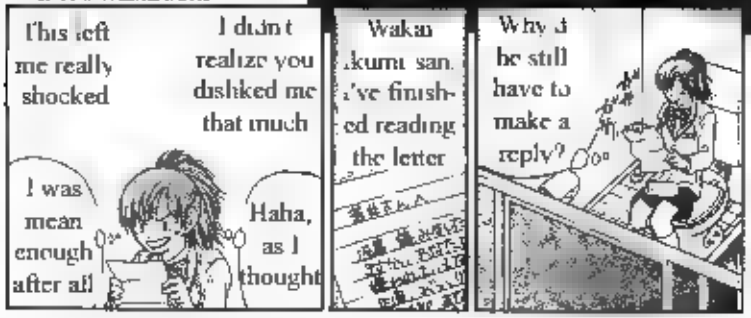

Geez really I already told you to think nothing of it!
Thank you so much How can I show you my gratitude



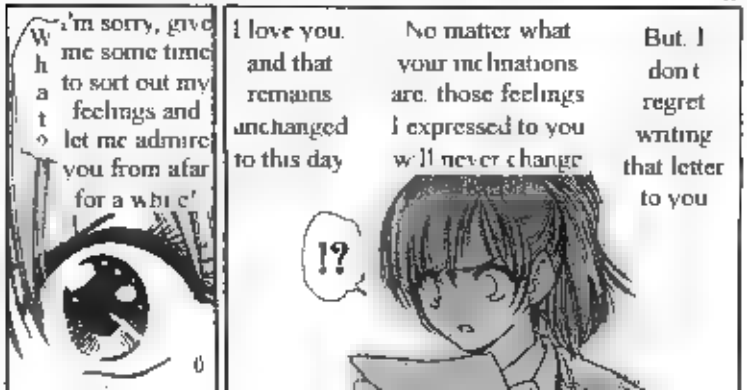
Un thanks See you tomorrow then! Sanae
Bye
Hope everything goes smoothly Ikuru

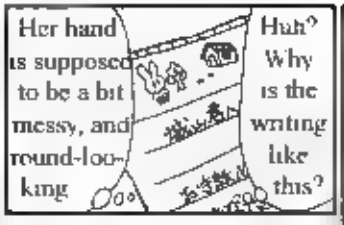
This is something Ikumi asked me to give to you yesterday
Here you go
*From Waka-Ikumi
Shiro-yama ---
2年7組
Ne--- Ne---
Shut up' Shoo off to somewhere else for a while'
A-hah--- It's not a love letter is it' Lemme have a look'
Ne' What's that'
WOAH
AAA AAA AAH'
Take care of my attendance okay---'
I'm skipping first period
Who's your good sister' It made my skin crawl saying that'
All things considered if I stood next to that girl it should've been apparent just how beautiful I am
It's ticking me off'
How can I allow him to be snatched away by a bashful and ordinary girl like her
What else but to have my own ends met to let me rewrite a letter that suits my intent
She actually entrusted such a heartful letter to me
Not even once thinking why I'd be so generous as to be her substitute hand
sigh What a stupid girl
I'm really looking forward to tomorrow
Ha ha ha

*Girl's washroom


This left me really shocked
I didn't realize you disliked me that much
I was mean enough after all
Haha, as I thought
Wakai Ikumi san, I've finished reading the letter
Why'd he still have to make a reply?

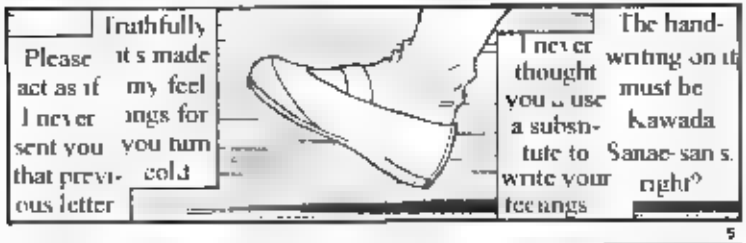
13

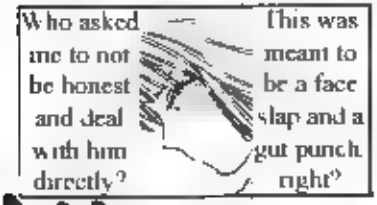

I'm sorry, give me some time to sort out my feelings and let me admire you from afar for a while!
I love you, and that remains unchanged to this day
No matter what your inclinations are, those feelings I expressed to you will never change
But, I don't regret writing that letter to you
!?



12

I'm sure she never suspected that I re-wrote both letters
Hmph-- Playtime should be over now right?
I was very disap-pointed
Waka Ikumi
After -san looking over your letter


Please act as if I never sent you that previ-ous letter
Truthfully it s made my feel ings for you turn cold
I never thought you s use a substi-tute to write your feelings
The hand-writing on it must be Kawada Sanae-san s. right?


Who asked me to not be honest and deal with him directly?
This was meant to be a face slap and a gut punch right?

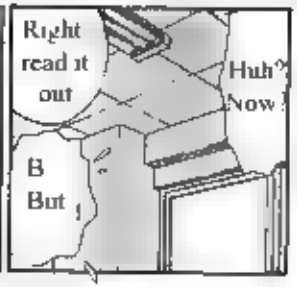
Kya-aaa!
Ya-aah
I simply don t have the right to have him ve me-

I really wish I could disappear I just feel despicable now
I despise you now good bye Shuroyama Kaneto

Shuro-yama is giving ya this
Take this. Ikumi
What the heck?! He likes Ikumi that much?
It's ticking me off
It's ticking me off

Look at it now will ya
Ah

Read it out loud. quickly
I don t care


Right read it out
Huh? Now
B But

be like this ?
How can it

He used a word proce-ssor?

I h. okay

Hold on for a second ------ ..
!?
(fart)
Do you dislike me now'
Did you hear that just now
!?
Huh ?
Ah : .
Waka -san
Mate
Waka -san
Wa
I didn t want you t reject me cuz of my writing
That s why I really used a feel substi- despi tute cable
I m sorry' My handwriting s just too ugly So ugly that it s not meant to be seen
Do you really dislike me that much'
Can it be that you don t dislike me'
W wan' What s going on' Aren t you the one rejecting me'

ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ

〈掲載・週刊少年サンデー平成12年39号より平成12年48号まで〉

PROFILE

猪熊　忍

INOKUMA Shinobu

The cover for this issue was colored with a computer. What does everyone think of it? Actually, personally I don't like digital imaging too much (This is the so called CG or CG work), so I promised to myself that I wouldn't go that way... But it seems, all is for naught... Anyway, I'll do my best to master CG! Oh, and speaking of computers, I finally opened my webpage! It's at: http://www.koalanet.ne.jp/~inokuma/ If you readers aren't too busy, get on the net and look it up! ...Go take a look, ok?

COVER DESIGN:CAT

我的主角 所迷惑

MY FAVORITE GIRLS

SALAD DAYS

The heroine this time is the one who plays Monica in the American hit TV show, "Friends", Courteney Cox.
It's a profound American tale about endless beginnings and ends in romance, to find that suitable man for herself.
Although she can seem like a tiger mother, she's actually very brave and lively. I like that very much!
The DVD for the newest "Friends" just hit the streets, so that is ecstatic news to me. And what's more, it has my most beloved Jennifer Aniston in it!
...A-hem, but the heroine for this issue is Courteney Cox... yup!
She's simply great. I just had to say it.